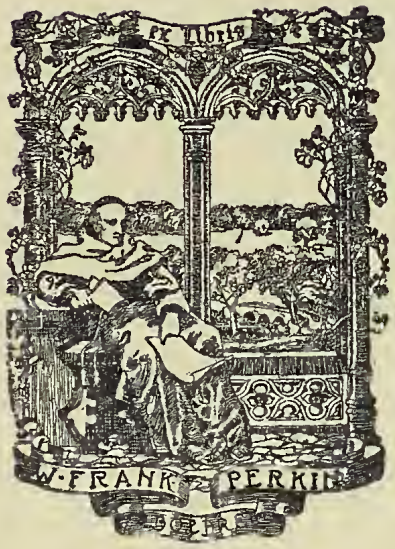
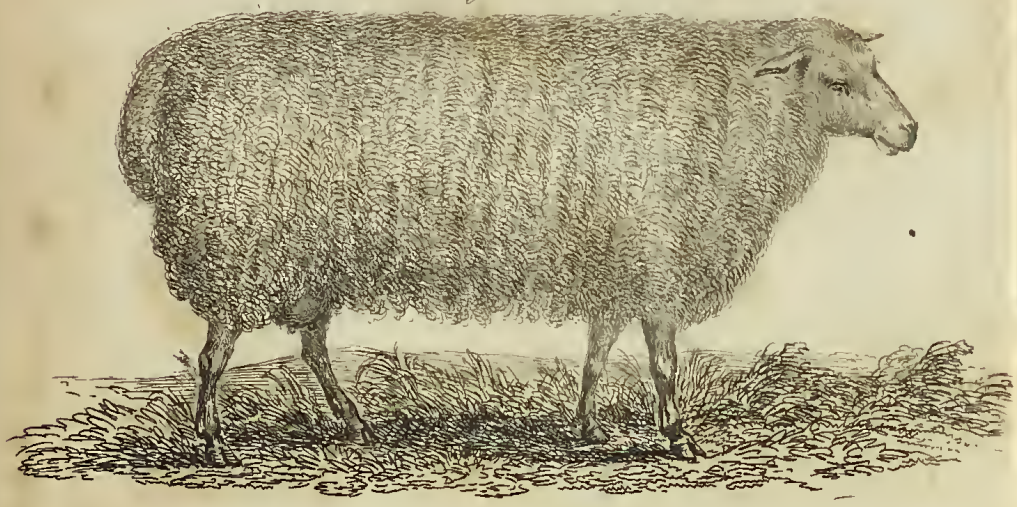
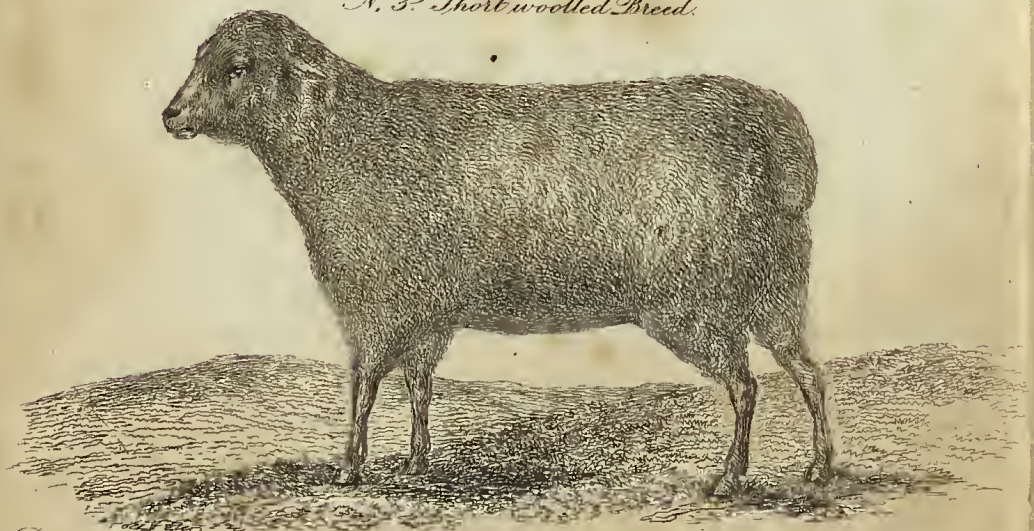


N.° 1. Fine wooled Breed.

N.° 2. Long wooled Breed.



N.° 3. Short wooled Breed.



Drawn & Engraved for Kennedy & Grainger's "Tenancy of Land" by H. Andrews.

THE

PRESENT STATE

OF

THE TENANCY OF LAND

IN THE

HIGHLAND AND GRAZING DISTRICTS

IN

GREAT BRITAIN;

SHOWING

THE PRINCIPAL CUSTOMS & METHODS UNDER WHICH SHEEP FARMS ARE NOW HELD AND MANAGED IN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES;

WITH

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SHEEP, AND FACTS RELATIVE TO THE STATE

OF THE

BRITISH WOOL GROWERS.

COLLECTED FROM A SURVEY MADE IN 1828 AND 1829,
BY THE AUTHORS,

L. KENNEDY AND T. B. GRAINGER.

" As an object of national attention the coat of the sheep is of the first importance; and any willful attempt to supplant or debase it, is an act of treason against the State.

Marshall.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY
JAMES RIDGWAY, PICCADILLY;
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M.DCCC.XXIX.

TILLING, PRINTER, CHELSEA.

TO HIS GRACE

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, K.G.

FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY,

&c. &c. &c.

My Lord Duke,

The readiness shewn by your Grace, to consent to an enquiry respecting the state of the Wool Trade, induces us to believe, that should it be established, that there are discrepancies in the evidence, given upon that occasion, which cannot be reconciled; and that in consequence of the system now, and for some time past acted upon, the British Wool Growers are suffering to an extent and an amount, which materially affect the interests of the whole community, your Grace will evince the same willingness to re-investigate a subject of such vital importance. Under the influence of this impression, and flattering ourselves that we have proved, in the following pages, (however feebly

the task may have been performed,) the difficulties and distress experienced by the Wool Growers to be such, that they can only be remedied by legislative interference; and that without such interposition, the producers of what has hitherto, and for ages, been considered the staple commodity of Britain, must, for the greater part, be ruined, and this country become chiefly dependent upon foreign growth for a supply of Wool, we presume to intrude our Work upon the attention of your Grace, and that of the British public.

We are perfectly aware, that this question is not unattended by embarrassment or perplexity; but your Grace equally invincible, prompt and decisive in the Cabinet, as in the Field, has a mode of surmounting obstacles, and reconciling jarring interests, vigilantly looking at the same time to the security and productiveness of all the various resources of the Empire; and, after what has, in this respect, been witnessed, and hailed with admiration, we may presume to hope, that a portion of that attention, so usefully devoted to other

objects—undoubtedly of great importance, will, ere long, be turned to this subject; which, yielding to none in real moment, is in truth one of pressing urgency, with reference to the welfare, and even the means of subsistence of numerous classes of the community, and to the upholding and maintenance of a large proportion of the resources of the State.

In the confident hope, that this question, amongst others, claiming the attention of the first Minister of the Crown, will meet with its due share of consideration, we submit, with the greatest deference, to your Grace's perusal, the facts and observations which we have endeavoured to collect and embody;

And have the honour to be,

Most respectfully, and in truth,

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's most obliged

and very obedient Servants,

THE AUTHORS.

Under the Patronage

OF

THE DUKE OF SOMERSET.

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

THE MARQUESS OF CONYNGHAM.

THE MARQUESS OF DOWNSHIRE.

THE EARL OF ESSEX.

EARL STANHOPE.

EARL OF MALMESBURY.

EARL OF DARNLEY.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY.

LORD GAGE.

LORD STRATHALLAN.

GILBERT HEATHCOTE, Esq. M.P.

&c. &c. &c.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The Authors having received their information from various sources, and detailed it under the heads of the several Counties and Districts to which it appropriately belonged, it has consequently happened, that in giving the expressions and sentiments of their friends, to whom they are indebted for it, variances of opinion upon some subjects, to which the Work refers, have found their way into the following pages. They did not, however, think themselves at liberty to reject or garble the statements sent by their Friends, although many of them differ from their own views; but have preferred giving them under their respective heads, with this special reservation, as to the opinions which they themselves entertain upon the points alluded to. They, therefore, entreat

the candour of their readers with regard to any apparent contradictions, but which do not affect the substance of the question at issue; and they take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the able and useful assistance they have received from several parts of the kingdom, by means of information and suggestions, materially bearing upon this highly important subject.

CONTENTS.

ERRATA TO PART I.

Page 2, line 2, *for*, "customs," *read* "custom."
„ 5 „ 28, *for* "could," *read* "would."
„ 13 „ 8, *for* "possesson," *read* "possession."
„ 18, „ 21, *for* "terms," *read* "times."
" 23, „ 4, *for* "to," *read* "for."
„ 41, „ 8, *for* "depreciations," *read* "depreciation."
„ 42, „ 27, *for* "any means of," *read* "means of any."
„ 43, „ 27, *for* "even enjoyed," *read* "enjoyed even."
„ 46, „ 17, *after* "political existence," *add* "are endangered."
„ 49, „ 17, *for* "there," *read* "thus."
„ 66, „ 17, *for* "demands," *read* "demand."
„ 78, „ 27, *for* "nature," *read* "character."
„ 77, „ 6, *for* "immediately," *read* "immensely."
„ 86, „ 24, *for* "he pays," *read* "is paid."
„ 86, „ 28, *for* "this system," *read* "it."
„ 90, „ 13, *for* "charge," *read* "charges."
„ 98, „ 24, *for* "farm," *read* "farms."
„ 110, „ 14, *for* "it is," *read* "they are."
„ 113, „ 3, *for* "from," *read* "instead of those."
„ 114, „ 14, *for* "in," *read* "the."
„ 128, „ 2, *for* "in," *read* "of."
„ 129, „ 1, *for* "to be found," *read* "included."
„ 133, „ 23, *for* "a short lease," *read* "short leases."
„ 161, „ 20, *for* "whilst," *read* "and," *dele* "to be;" and, *for* "have," *read* "having."
„ 184, „ 6, *dele* "particular."
„ 226, „ 21, *for* "effect," *read* "cause."
„ 227, „ 14, *insert* "relative," *between* "same," and "situation."
„ Ibid. „ 25, *for* "considerable," *read* "considerably."
„ 228, „ 31, *dele* "you may say."
„ 237, „ 5, *for* "contributes," *read* "contribute."
„ Ibid. „ 11, *for* "quarters," *read* "districts."
„ 242, „ 11, comma *after* "one," and *read* "a quantity of."
„ 248, „ 21, *for* "operations," *read* "operation."

Page 251, line 18, *dele* " even," and *insert* it between " mentioned," and " if."

„ 259, „ 3, *for* " of," *read* " to."

„ 262, „ 7, *for* " customs," *read* " custom."

„ 266, „ 31, *read* after line, " from year to year, in some places they are held."

„ 272, „ 1, *for* " consquence," *read* " consequence."

„ 312, „ 11, *dele* " only by," and *insert* " on the contrary it is;" *dele* " being."

„ Ibid. „ 12, *for* " and thus it," *read* " it thus."

„ 316, „ 9, *for* " in," *read* " on."

„ 317, „ 8, *for* " plaster," *read* " plaister."

„ 342, „ 28, *for* " which," *read* " this."

„ Ibid. „ 29, *for* " in," *read* " with."

„ 344, „ 4, *for* " being," *read* " is."

„ Ibid. „ 31, *for* " buildings," *read* " outhuildings."

„ 347, „ 2, *for* " barely," *read* " barley."

„ 349, „ 26, *for* " is," *read* " are."

ERRATA TO PART II.

Page 25, line 19, *for* " late," *read* " later."

„ 49, „ 12, *for* " Romsey, *read* " Romney."

„ 61, „ 5, *for* " these," *read* " those."

„ 232, „ 14, *for* " posssible," *read* " possible."

„ 257, „ 23, *for* " helth," read " health.

„ 285, „ 4, *for* " o," *read* " do."

PREFACE.

The Authors of the System and Practice of Tenancy, whilst gratefully acknowledging the favourable reception of their work, by the Public, have felt, at the same time, that it would not be complete, without entering into some detail respecting sheep-farming and the growth of wool, which form such important branches of the husbandry of the British Empire; and which, under present circumstances, have become a truly momentous subject for consideration, involving, as it does, a most material portion of the welfare and prosperity of the State. The present volume, therefore, will be chiefly confined to the sheep districts of England, Scotland, and Wales. It is true that the recent work contained various details upon this subject; but it has been objected, that it did not

sufficiently comprehend the Counties of Scotland, to entitle it to the appellation of a survey of Great Britain; and this, also, has been another inducement with the Authors to put forth this continuation of their work, and which will complete it, so far as regards their intentions and object in courting the public attention.

The facts that will be found detailed in the ensuing pages, will abundantly prove the necessity of protection being given to the sheep farmer, as well as to the grower of corn; the former being equally in need of it, not merely with regard to his own interest, but which, of course, forms the great and material part of the question, with a view to the upholding and sustaining the agriculture of the Empire, of which sheep husbandry forms so important a part. The mere cursory observer, or one who thinks little of sheep, except so far as regards the mutton he eats, may perhaps imagine that with reference to state policy or legislative

enactment, the subject is of comparatively very trifling importance: those, however, who are at all acquainted with the concerns of husbandry, know, that, in many districts, the sole, and in various others the chief dependance of the farmer, is upon the produce of his wool.

It is not, therefore, a minor, but a primary consideration, to protect that wool against foreign competition in the home market, in order that the farmers who depend upon it, may be enabled to discharge those burdens which are imposed upon the land they occupy. It is with reference to this point of view, that the Authors have undertaken this continuation of their work. It is not, however, their intention to go over the same ground that they took in their late publication; and this, for obvious reasons; but let it not be forgotten that the same arguments which apply to the production of corn, also apply with equal force to the growth of wool; it being evident that, without a remunerating

price, or, in other words, a price that shall leave a fair profit to the farmer, after paying rent, charges, rates, and taxes, he cannot go on; and the bankruptcy of sheep-husbandry must, of necessity, cause the insolvency of numerous classes who depend upon it, either directly or indirectly, and produce a most serious defalcation in the revenue of the State.

Every one is, of course, aware that there are two interests connected with this question, which are, in a great measure, at least apparently, opposed to each other, that of the grower of wool and that of the manufacturer. The latter has lately, through what we must deem a mistaken policy, triumphed over the former; and the British wool grower finds himself in the situation of having a commodity annually accumulating upon his hands, which has become utterly unsaleable, except at a serious loss. This calamity, for such it undoubtedly is, has been brought about by means of the evidence given by woollen manufacturers

and merchants in foreign wool, before committees of both Houses of Parliament, which has had, we must say, an undue effect, leading to the withdrawal of that protection to the British grower, in the shape of a duty upon the importation of foreign wool, which it had previously been the policy of the Government and the Legislature to impose and to maintain.

Far be it from the Authors of this work to impeach the motives of those who gave that evidence; but it cannot be denied that they looked very keenly to their own interests, and it would be a very trite observation to say, that men in all situations are very liable to be biassed by what they consider to be their interest. It is, also, obvious that the interests of the merchant and the manufacturer, depending as the former does, in a great measure, and the latter to a certain extent, upon foreign trade, may be essentially served at the expense of a national loss. By enabling the manufacturer to obtain a raw commodity, at a

cheaper rate from foreign sources, than he can do at home, his profits may be, at least for the present, materially increased, but at the expense of what? At the expense of the life-blood, (if we may be allowed such an expression,) of the British wool grower. The latter may, for a time, sustain an unequal conflict; but must at length sink, overwhelmed by embarrassment and distress: he has no foreign resource to look to, he depends entirely upon the home market, he cannot afford to sell at a price so low as that at which the foreign commodity can be vended in the home-market; and thus, without a protecting duty, he has no other prospect but ruin, whilst the State loses all those immense advantages which are so well known to be derived from sheep-husbandry.

The evidence, therefore, of the woollen manufacturers is not to be relied upon, with any view to considerations of state policy; their own immediate interests they doubtless well understood, and are perfectly acquainted with,

but they would, of course, be very loth to admit that those interests, as thus stated, are at variance with the welfare of the community. Yet that they are so, it is not only easy to prove; but the proposition will be rendered evident to every one by the perusal of the following pages. It is not meant to be asserted that their interests, or those of any class of manufacturers, are at variance with the prosperity of the empire; but merely this, that there is a certain point at which the welfare of the manufacturer and the home grower may be nearly balanced; that if the turn is given to the latter, the former may lose somewhat in foreign commerce; but he will be amply compensated by increased home trade; but if it is given to the manufacturer, the home grower is ruined, and no foreign trade can compensate for the vacuum thus created.

Unhappily, by admitting foreign wool at a merely nominal duty, not only the turn is given to the manufacturer, but by that mea-

sure the sheep farmer is rendered as nothing in the balance; he toils in vain; the capital he has invested becomes unproductive; his outgoings are greater than his receipts; and thus his capital is gradually, nay rapidly wasted, his stock sensibly diminishes, the land he occupies becomes greatly deteriorated, and must ere long revert to its original sterility; and thus large districts, fertilized by means of sheep and of sheep alone, are rendered waste and useless to the community; and the whole nation suffers, through the mistaken policy which preferred the interests of the woollen manufacturer to those of the sheep farmer.

That this train of evils must inevitably follow the admission of foreign wool at a low duty, the Authors are not only firmly convinced themselves, but they feel persuaded that they shall be enabled to convince others, who are not swayed to the contrary by inveterate prejudice or powerful interest. It is, indeed, so obvious, that the low-priced foreign commodity

must drive out of the market the home article of the same description, which cannot be afforded without loss, except at a higher rate, that the question in that point of view seems to need no argument. It has, however, been so obscured by numerous fallacies, that it hence becomes necessary to shew by facts, and data arising out of them, the real state of the case, as affecting the wool grower, and between him and the woollen manufacturer, with relation to the interests of each.

This is precisely the object of the Authors, in the continuation of their work, which they now offer to the public; not that they have the vanity to suppose, that they can set the question in a clearer light than others have done before them, or that they can add much new matter to what has already been published; but merely this, that certain facts which have not already been published, or which, if they have, are so scattered through numerous publications, that it is too toilsome a labour to strive to obtain the information

they convey, may be compressed within a brief volume, for the purpose of ready and general reference, of shewing, by the strongest evidence, the real grievance which presses upon the wool growers; and, at the same time, endeavouring to point out a remedy, by the operation of which, that grievance may be removed, or, at least, greatly lessened in its injurious effects.

What relates to the latter will be found in the Summary of this work: the points that most materially bear upon the question will be found in the Introduction and History of Sheep and Wool; whilst the facts, applicable to the present state of sheep husbandry in Great Britain, are detailed under the heads of the respective counties. It is here material to observe, that, like the statements in the former work, these facts are derived from information received in the districts to which they severally relate, and that they may therefore be relied upon, as conveying the most recent and authentic in-

telligence upon the subject. This, the Authors may say, without any undue assumption, they having taken great pains, and incurred considerable expense, for the purpose of being in this respect as accurate as possible.

In the progress of making such a survey, it would be egregious folly to pretend that many errors may not have been committed; but they may with confidence aver, that the statements they have given are generally correct, although there may be instances to which they do not apply. The object, of course, has been to give general practices and results, and not exceptions, unless it became necessary to allude to the latter from any circumstances claiming particular notice. It is the former that must of necessity govern all questions of expediency, and not isolated instances or cases, which may depend upon circumstances, that have no bearing upon, or are hostile to several interests. The facts and principal data connected with this subject, being thus compressed into a small

volume, it may serve as a manual for the purposes of the sheep farmer and wool grower, and those who advocate their cause, which is, in truth, the cause of the country, as well as to convince those who have hitherto been indifferent to the question, that it is one in which their interests may be deeply involved, at least indirectly, or, if not, that it is one which most materially affects the welfare and prosperity of numerous classes of the community, and, in truth, of the whole empire.

The Authors are, of course, aware, that there is a powerful interest combined on the other side, and much *better* combined than that of the sheep farmers and wool growers: herein lies the evil; the latter have been too scattered in the combat to prevail against the close fighting of the former. The wool merchants and the manufacturers, in all the branches of the woollen trade, have acted in concert, as a compact body, with unity and force, whilst the efforts of the wool growers,

acting in detached parties, have been feebly directed, and productive of no effect. But it is the wool growers who must form the basis of a large portion of Britain's prosperity; and to endeavour to concentrate their strength, which is to them vital, and to the country most essential, is avowedly one object of the Authors, in collecting and embodying those facts, which, however wielded, or by much abler hands, can alone form the weapons by means of which the contest must be decided.

In saying this, nothing more is meant to be asserted, than that the interest of the wool growers is identified with that of the empire: there is no doubt that the welfare also of the manufacturers is of great importance to the prosperity of the State; but it is of much greater moment that the former should thrive than that the latter should obtain for a time additional profits. The prosperity of the sheep farmer and the wool grower is entirely domestic; it is attached to the soil, it is domiciliated in the country,

wherever it spreads it fertilizes, wherever it fertilizes it enriches in a much larger proportion than the actual fertility it produces, the State, throughout all its resources, feeling the vivifying influence of that increased circulation which proceeds from it. The augmenting wealth of the manufacturer undoubtedly also contributes to that of the country, but it cannot in its nature be a substitute for the former: it must either mainly depend upon the home trade, or else it becomes, as it were, an exotic and alien to the welfare of the community.

The general prosperity of a State can only be sustained by that of all the branches of industry carried on within it, and upon the due adjustment of each and all of these it entirely depends: if one is enlarged or increased beyond its due proportion, it will very soon be found that the rest have a rapid tendency to wither and decay. Foreign trade produces wealth; but that wealth only becomes a part of the domestic resources of the country by being in-

vested in its soil; and if the soil is rendered unproductive by its cultivation and improvement becoming unprofitable, through an undue encouragement given to manufactures and foreign commerce, that wealth is useless to the State, and vanishes from its coffers at the first approach of danger; whilst the real wealth of the Empire arising from its agriculture, the cultivation and improvement of its soil, having, in the mean time, been sacrificed or greatly impaired, the community becomes powerless, and lies prostrate at the feet of a foreign enemy.

This succession of cause and effect has been so often exemplified in the history of various States, that it would be only tediously repeating truisms to pursue the argument further; but it is absolutely necessary to bring it prominently forward on the canvas, and for this reason, that those merchants or manufacturers who seek, for the sake of their own interests, to obtain an advantage over that of the agriculturist, invariably endeavour to keep it as

much as possible, out of sight. It is with this view, that the wool question, amongst others, has been so strangely mystified: one might suppose, from some of the arguments that have been used, that sheep farmers and wool growers were beings that merely fed sheep or produced wool for pleasure and amusement, without any regard to profit, or even to the subsistence and support of themselves and their families, or that sheep and wool were products *feræ naturæ*, in which no person could legally claim any right of property. We quote Dr. Davenant's opinion in support of the above. "There is hardly a society of merchants that would not have it thought the whole prosperity of the kingdom depends upon their single traffic: so that at any time when they come to be consulted, their answers are dark and partial; and when they deliberate themselves, 'tis generally with a *bias* and a secret eye to *their own advantage*."

That the produce of the soil is at least as

much entitled to protection against foreign competition, as the produce of the loom, or of any species of manufacture, is so obviously true, and has been so much argued with regard to the illustrations of the proposition, in the former work, that it is needless to insist further upon it here. It may, however, be added, that a greater mischief would ensue from permanently lowering the prices of British wool by means of foreign importation, than that of corn, or rather one that it would take a much longer period to repair, because the breeds of sheep, once materially reduced, it is evident that a number of years must elapse before they could, even under favourable circumstances, be replaced, and a still more considerable time before the land, which had, by means of them been fertilized, could be again brought under tillage.

We trust, therefore, that the noblemen and gentlemen connected with that very large

portion of the soil of Great Britain, which depends for rent or profit upon sheep pasture, or the growth of wool, will bestir themselves in time, ere it be too late: their tenants are fast sinking into insolvency, and they will themselves soon be deprived of their incomes, if the coarser kinds of foreign wool are allowed to drive out those descriptions of British wool from the home market. That this is no imaginary grievance, but a real existing calamity, every one, connected with sheep farming or the growth of wool, can abundantly testify.

Not only this, but the overwhelming the home market with foreign wool, inevitably prevents all improvements in that of domestic growth, for who is to be found to embark his capital in a losing speculation? The life and soul of all enterprize must be, of course, generally speaking, the prospect of gain; but what is to be obtained by producing wool for which there is no market? And

if the produce of the soil, whatever it may be, does not repay cost, rent, and expences, with the addition of a reasonable profit, who will be found rash enough to waste capital in farming it?

These questions evidently carry with them, as it were, their own answers; but those who are continually endeavouring to obtain cheap foreign wool, studiously keep out of sight all this most important part of the subject, and resort to general arguments, which may have an effect upon the multitude, but which have either no foundation whatever in truth, or are practically utterly inapplicable to the situation of the British Empire.

To attempt to place the question in its true light, not by means of theories, but of actual and indisputable facts, is the object of the Authors: they may fail, but they may, at all events, without the imputation of vanity, claim credit for their intentions, which are sincerely devoted to what they honestly be

lieve to be the real interests of their country, convinced as they are, that not only the prosperity, but the very existence, of the British Empire, depends upon due encouragement and protection being given to its agriculture, farming, and cultivation, in all their branches.

INTRODUCTION.

The present work being, as already stated, intended as a continuation of the Practice and Customs of Tenancy in Great Britain; and it being, in consequence, proposed to treat chiefly of the peculiarities in the holdings and customs under which the land in the pasture districts and mountainous parts of the country is tenanted and regulated, it has been thought by the Authors, that a brief history of the rise and progress of breeding that most valuable animal, the sheep, in Great Britain, together with the improvements made in it from time to time, and the laws and restrictions which, at various periods, have tended most materially to affect or have an influence upon that most important branch of our industry and commerce, would not be unacceptable, especially at the present

moment, when, unfortunately, there is evidence of a disposition to reverse, or greatly to alter for the worse, the wise policy of our ancestors.

Many of the readers of this work, possess, no doubt, the means of making, and some have probably made researches, into the causes of that great superiority of wealth over other nations which has so strongly and happily marked the career of the British Empire, their knowledge of English history, and their facility of access to documents of importance, enabling them to become masters of the subject; but to others a brief historical outline of the trade in wool and its manufacture, (and nothing more can, of course, be expected in a work like the present,) may not be uninteresting.

It is well known that the greatest attention was paid by the ancients to the breeding of sheep, under the protection of what they considered the tutelar deity, Minerva, to whom the art of preparing wool was attributed. This

may be learnt from Varro,* who states, that at Tarentum, in the neighbourhood of which place the best breeds of sheep were to be found, no pains were spared by the people for the security of the sheep and their wool, and that they even clothed the former with skins, to protect them from injury, and to prevent the wool from being damaged or lost.

The art of weaving wool was undoubtedly practised in this country by the Romans; it being stated by Camden, that the Roman Emperors established here their imperial weaving houses both for linens and woollens. After their departure, the art still remained in England, but certainly not in that improved state which it attained in the fourteenth century, when it was again introduced from the Netherlands by Edward the Third.

Lord Chief Justice Hale refers to the Guilds in England for the manufacture of woollen cloth, established at York, Lincoln, Oxford, and other cities, as so many proofs of its

* De Re Rustica, lib. 11. cap. 11.

flourishing state in the times of Henry the Second and Richard the First; but it appears to have been subsequently much neglected, if not nearly annihilated, in the following reigns, which, through wars and intestine troubles, were unfavourable to manufactures, until its prosperity was again renovated under Edward the Third.

The great reputation which was formerly attached to English wool, and the estimation in which it was held, with reference to its superior quality, as well as the great importance of its trade and manufacture, may be found in Chamberlayne; and there is no doubt that at the period alluded to, the wool of England was greatly superior to that of any other country. It has, indeed, been conjectured, that Spain is indebted for her present pre-eminence in fine wool, to sheep originally sent from England by some of our monarchs, previous to the year 1468. There is, however, little doubt, that attention to, and improvements in, the breeds of sheep, were making

progress in Spain as far back as the year 1186, Henry the Second of England having, in the thirty-first year of his reign, deemed it necessary to protect the English woollen manufactures, by granting a patent to the weavers of London, importing, that if any English cloth should be found made of Spanish wool, or in which that material should be mixed, the Mayor of London was authorized to see it burnt. The first authentic notice of any improvement or change in the breed of sheep, in Spain, occurs in the reign of Peter the Fourth, in 1350; that monarch having, it is recorded, transported an excellent breed from Barbary, which was subsequently continued by Cardinal Ximenes, from the same source. It has also been narrated, that Henry the Eighth of England obtained, at a late period, from Charles the Fifth of Spain several thousand sheep from the latter country, which are supposed to have improved our breed, by a mixture or cross with our native sheep. It appears, therefore, that

England and Spain have been, at different periods, mutually indebted to each other, for the improvement of their respective breeds of sheep, or, to speak more correctly, that of their wool. The Government of Spain have, since the period first alluded to, never lost sight of any opportunity that presented itself of improving their valuable and extensive flocks of sheep, an object which has always been considered of primary importance, contributing, as they do, to form a most material source of national wealth.

With regard to other quarters of Europe, that which chiefly claims our attention, as affecting our native produce of wool, is the rise in importance of the Merino Saxon breed, or fine woolled sheep of the northern part of Germany; as from the valuable quality of the fleece produced under circumstances, climate, and government, so utterly different from those of Spain, it is not easy to account for the perfection that has been attained in this great branch of rural economy. The difficulty is,

at the same time, much increased, by the indisposition that appears to prevail in the countries alluded to, to impart any information upon the subject, very little being found in any of their writers relating to it; and though it is well known that the German press continually teems with works upon most branches of science, yet very trifling information is to be gleaned from them respecting the modes employed in rearing and breeding sheep, or in improving the quality of the wool.

Those works, however, in which any mention is made of the mode of management in Saxony and Sweden, or the northern parts of Germany, for the purpose of producing the finest wool, decidedly prove the necessity of keeping the sheep in a temperature as equal as possible, protecting them both from severe cold in the winter, from great heat in the summer, and from heavy rains at all seasons. But these precautions, and this mode of management, appear to produce a constitutional

disability in the sheep to fatten, and to diminish those points of shape and frame, which, in the eyes of a British breeder or grazier, are deemed so essential to perfection. We have also abundant proofs, that climate, soils, and food, all contribute to change, in time, the nature of the fleece, in proportion as they affect the constitution of the sheep.*

Similar results are observable in other animals: the horse, which lives in an exposed situation, or in wild and mountainous countries, produces a coarse shaggy coat, whilst the hair of the racer and well-groomed horse, which is constantly kept warm, either in a stable, or by means of exercise, becomes silky and fine. Effects of an analogous nature are produced in sheep; no change in a breed is or can be produced at once or immediately, but it is brought about in a course of years, by pursuing a certain system. And that such a system may be successfully carried on in

* Vide Paper, by M. Roulin; communicated to Acad. Sci. Paris Lit. Gaz. 698.

a cold, as well as a warm climate, is clearly established by the improvements in the breeds of sheep, or at least in the growth of wool, which have been effected in the north of Europe.

There remains a question, and certainly a very important one, whether the wool can be improved in the manner alluded to, without deteriorating the carcase. But this involves so many considerations, that it is difficult to arrive at a conclusion, without a series of experiments, continued through several years. It is true that, as already stated, the result in Saxony and Sweden is unfavourable to the production of prime mutton, but, in opposition to this, may be cited the words of Mr. T. Kirby Trimmer, who says, "the butchers, who, at one time, would not look at the Merino sheep in the market, are now eager (at least many of them,) to purchase those which are of a good quality;" and again, "The butchers, (at any rate those who speak without prejudice,) admit, as they must do,

that no sheep die brighter than the Merinos, —that no mutton is finer in the grain, or more juicy at a proper age, than that of well fed Merinos,—and that, if they do not throw out such lumps of fat upon some particular points, yet those excrescences of fat are often unprofitable to the consumer." Mr. T. further observes, "good Merinos, when dead, weigh fully equal to their appearance, prove well within; and, be the amount of external fat what it may in a particular animal, that fat is spread more evenly over the carcase than on many favourite breeds of sheep." The sheep, which are thus spoken of by Mr. T. Kirby Trimmer, being part of his own flock, produce wool as follows: "their fleeces, when brook washed, average three pounds and a half each; and the price at which the entire of the fleeces of the whole flock have sold for, during each of the four last years, has been three shillings and sixpence per pound."

This tends to prove, that the production

of a superior kind of wool, and of good flavoured mutton, are not incompatible: we are aware, that considerable difference of opinion exists with regard to the quality of the mutton, and there may be, perhaps, some prejudices; if so, it is much to be lamented, as improvement may be thereby prevented or much retarded. But Mr. Kirby Trimmer's statement, at any rate, establishes the fact of the practicability of producing superior wool in England, by means of considerable attention and care.

The means, therefore, of obtaining that valuable object, the superior fineness of fleece, are not to seek, being set forth in the pamphlet to which we have alluded, and may be carried into practice by those who are desirous of improving the breed with reference to the quality of wool. This, however, must be, of course, a work of time; but, as it could only be effected where circumstances and situation would admit of it, the extent or quantum of improvement must consequently

be limited, and the larger proportion of Great Britain must continue to produce a fleece, such as the nature of its changeable climate and other causes necessitates the farmer to cultivate.

The question, therefore, for consideration, is,—the protection of British wool as it is,—that is to say, including a great quantity of the coarser kinds, which cannot compete as to price in the market, with foreign wool of the same quality, for this obvious reason: that the latter can be grown at a cheaper rate, the grower or breeder not having taxes or rates to pay, or burdens to discharge, in any thing near the same proportion that falls so heavily upon the British farmer. It is the peculiar situation in which the agriculturists, the sheep farmers, and wool growers of Great Britain are thus placed, in having to pay so large a proportion of outgoings for public purposes and the service of the State, that renders it an incumbent duty upon the Legislature, (if we may be allowed so to

express ourselves,) to protect them up to a certain point against foreign competition in the home market, and this for the sake of the general interests of the Empire, the upholding of its Constitution and Government, and of its internal system of polity.

It being intended to take up this subject in the Summary, with the view of suggesting a mode of relieving the sheep farmers and wool growers, with reference to the kinds of wool which Great Britain will produce, without detriment to the carcase, or without that great care and consequent expence, which, from the price of labour, could scarcely be repaid, or, at least, the repayment of which may be considered very doubtful; it is unnecessary to pursue it further here. It cannot, however, be too often reiterated, or too frequently impressed upon the minds of the British sheep farmers and wool growers, that the more they can improve the quality of their fleeces, without loss of meat, so much

the more will they be enabled to withstand any foreign competition.

But that wool, grown as it still continues to be, may be materially improved in its quality, was decidedly proved twenty years since by Mr. R. Bakewell, who, in his published observations, states, as the result of his own experience, " that by the application of a well-chosen unguent, wool may be defended from the action of the soil and elements, and improved more than can be effected by any other means, except an entire change of breed. Not only will the quality of the wool be ensured by this practice, but it will become finer, and the quantity will be increased: it is also found to preserve the sheep in situations where they would inevitably perish without this defence." He says further, speaking of the effects of this application, " I am informed from authority which I cannot doubt, that many cloths, made from greased Northumberland wool, have been

sold as cloths made from good Spanish wool, and have equalled them in their texture and softness: ungreased wool, equally fine, and manufactured in the same way, would have made a cloth, the value of which would not have equalled the former by at least thirty per cent."

The practice of rubbing sheep with an ointment is of high antiquity,* and, there is no doubt, is of great advantage. It not merely improves the quality of the wool, but, as observed by Mr. Bakewell, "the ointment destroys the sheep tick, and has a tendency to prevent cutaneous distempers, and preserve

* It is alluded to by Virgil: see Dryden's Virgil, Geo. iii.

"Good shepherds, after shearing, drench their sheep;
And their flock's father (forc'd from high to leap)
Swims down the stream, and plunges in the deep.
They oint their naked limbs with mother'd oil;
Or from the founts where living sulphurs boil,
They mix a med'cine to foment their limbs
With scum that on the molten silver swims;
Fat pitch and black bitumen add to these,
Besides the waxen labour of the bees,
And hellebore and squills deep rooted in the seas."

sheep from the bite of the fly. Independent of all consideration of comfort and ease to the animal, a considerable quantity of wool will be saved, which is torn off by sheep, when rubbing themselves against trees or fences, to allay the irritation of the skin occasioned by these causes." A clear proof of the advantages arising from the practice of greasing sheep, may, he observes, be seen on the mountain sides, " in a *winter's* day, when the fleeces of the ungreased sheep are whitened over with snow, or the hoar frost, the fleeces of the other (those greased) will be seen entirely free and uncovered; either the ointment had prevented the particles of moisture from lodging in the fleece, or they had been thawed and dissipated by the superior warmth of the animal. " The ointment resists the action of moisture more powerfully than the natural yolk; the latter is easily miscible with water, and washed away."

Respecting the composition of this oint-

ment, Mr. Bakewell says, " I would recommend a quantity of bees' wax to be melted with butter, hogs' lard, or olive oil, and if any tar be used, that it should not be in a greater proportion than one quart to ten pounds of the mixture. In mild situations, where the sheep are well sheltered from the rain, or where they feed on soils that have neither lime or chalk, a less tenacious ointment may be used, and tar discontinued as an ingredient in the composition of the unguent." " Those who are unwilling to make the experiment fully, might still greatly improve their flocks, by a slighter application of a thin ointment of olive oil and butter immediately after shearing; this would preserve the animal from the effects of sudden exposure to cold winds, and be of essential service to the wool, though it would not produce all the benefit which might be obtained from a more tenacious ointment."

There can be no doubt that an ointment skilfully applied, by dividing the staples with

one hand, and applying the unguent to the skin with the finger of the other hand, is highly beneficial to the fleece; and that, if the practice was generally adopted, it would, as observed by Mr. Bakewell, "greatly improve the quality of the wool, and annually save many thousand sheep from perishing by the severity of the climate." To remove any objection against greased wools, Mr. B. recommends "the same manner of washing sheep in tubs with warm water, as is practised in Sweden." "The extra labour required to wash sheep in tubs with warm water, and lees or soda, would, I apprehend, be amply repaid, were the water of the first and second washings carried out and applied as a manure. The quantity of rich natural animal soap it would contain, must make it one of the most fertilizing applications which could possibly be used.

To improve the fleece by the means thus described, is within the power of every sheep farmer, and the experiment is surely worth

trying, especially when the beneficial results of the practice are vouched by such competent authorities. It is, however, at the same time necessary, that the sheep be, as far as possible, kept dry, and sheltered from the extremes of heat and cold. It is not here meant to be asserted, that they should be, as it were, nursed, like the sheep in Saxony and Sweden, but merely that they should not be exposed to heavy rains, extreme cold, or great heat, as they too frequently are, especially with regard to cold and wet, in many parts of Great Britain. Most farmers possess the means of sheltering their sheep to the extent here suggested, and there can be no doubt that whatever additional expense might be thus incurred, it would be amply repaid with a good profit, by means of additional fineness and superior quality of the wool.

It is well known, that sheep, towards the close of the day, follow the sun. Respecting this subject, some hints as to different modes

of shelter, will be found in subsequent pages. The sheep in open mountainous districts naturally find their shelter from heat, by proceeding to the highest points during the warmest part of the day, and from cold, by descending when they feel its effects in those upper regions, as is observed in Lanarkshire and other countries.

The necessity of keeping sheep in cool and shady situations during the summer months, with a view to the fineness and softness of the wool, is, indeed, on all hands, fully established; for, though the heat of our climate may not be considered great, yet the late Lord Somerville was decidedly of opinion, from his own experience in sheep farming, that where sufficient shelter was not afforded, it produced a marked deterioration in the wool. His lordship observed, in a note to the pamphlet of Mr. Bakewell, who had said, that in our temperate latitude, extreme heat could rarely produce any injury. " But temperate as the latitude

may be, it is still produced. The wool of our Merino sheep, after shear time, is hard and coarse to such a degree, as to render it impossible to suppose, that the same animal could bear wool so opposite in quality, compared to that which had been clipt from it in the course of the same season; as the cold weather advances, the fleeces recover their soft quality."

This is an additional proof of what has been before advanced, namely, the necessity of keeping sheep in as equal a temperature as possible, with reference to the fineness and good quality of the fleece. It is a well known fact, that the natural covering is more or less changed by extreme heat or extreme cold, compared to what it is in more temperate climates, and this, of itself, affords a clue to the proper management of sheep, in order that their natural covering or fleeces may be rendered as useful as possible for the purposes for which they are intended. By affording them, with this view, a sufficient

degree of shelter, and keeping them dry, so far as the various situations and the districts in which they are bred, will admit of, the result of all experience shews, that much would be gained in the improved quality and greater fineness and softness of the wool.

This attention in the management of flocks is so simple, and apparently so obvious, that it might be supposed it would have been tried in every sheep district in Great Britain, but that the contrary is the fact is too well known to admit of any dispute. This country presents, in various quarters, specimens of different modes of farming, from the best, through a number of intermediate degrees, to the worst, and, unfortunately, a long period elapses before prejudices, or preconceived or long established opinions, give way to more enlightened dicta. A few noblemen, or gentlemen, or spirited farmers, make successful experiments in different districts, and shew the beneficial results that flow

from them, but the slowness with which these improvements make their way into general practice is matter for deep regret, especially when farming, in all its branches, is so imperatively called upon to keep pace with the improvements so rapidly and continually making in all other resources of human industry.

Surface draining, for instance, which is equally essential in sheep farming, as with regard to the growth of corn, is not sufficiently attended to in several districts both of England and Scotland, whilst the sheep themselves are greatly neglected. But, even with all these defects in management, there is no doubt that sheep husbandry has been productive of the greatest advantages. The poorer soils have been thus, in many instances, made to contribute a larger portion of human food, than was formerly produced from the richest lands. And this affords one of the strongest arguments for a sufficient protection being awarded to British wool, as, without

that, these breeds of sheep cannot be kept up, and the land that has, through their means, been brought into a state of beneficial cultivation, must be thrown back to its original unproductiveness.

It is evident that, in this case, the farmers of these lands, and all who depend upon them, must be ruined; and whence could this heavy loss of customers to the manufacturers and merchants be supplied? Certainly not from any resources of foreign trade. Herein lies the fatal mistake of the manufacturers, who, by contributing to ruin the home consumers, ultimately ruin themselves, although, in the interval, they may obtain an increase of profits, for this is the bait which tempts them.

In looking to this as well as all other questions connected with agriculture, or any description of farming, it should always be borne in mind, that Britain cannot be compared with any other State, on account of the peculiar nature of her institutions, and

of the mode by which they are supported, the burden of that support falling, in a great measure, and, in some cases, almost wholly, upon the land, and which can only be discharged by means of the prices received for the produce of the soil, or that is derived from its farming or cultivation. It is this peculiarity which renders all questions relating to agriculture or farming truly national ones; they not being questions of mere profit and loss to individuals, but involving considerations of national support, of national welfare, and even of national existence.

It is not whether the wool grower shall obtain for his commodity sixpence a pound more or sixpence a pound less, but how the revenue is to be collected, or how the poor rates and other charges are to be paid, otherwise than by enabling those who pay them to continue to have the means of paying them, and this can only be done by protecting them up to a certain point

of price, against foreign competition in the home market. If this is not done, we shall be contributing to the prosperity of other States at the expense of our own ultimate ruin.

BRIEF HISTORY

OF

SHEEP AND WOOL

IN

GREAT BRITAIN.

It may be considered requisite to commence this outline by a Description of that species of the order of Pecora, of Linneus, which is generally known and domesticated throughout the greater part of the civilized world.

Linneus mentions three species of sheep: 1st. The Ovis Aries, or ram sheep; 2nd. Ovis Guineensis, or Guinea sheep; and, 3d. Ovis Strepanensis, or Cretan sheep. Of the first species, there are several varieties: the Ovis Rustica, or common sheep, with large spiral horns; Ovis Anglica, hornless sheep; Ovis Hispanica, Spanish sheep; Ovis polycerata, many horned sheep found in Iceland, Siberia, Poland, and other parts of the north;

Ovis Africana, African sheep, with short hair, like a goat; Ovis Arabica or Laticauda, broad tailed sheep, common in Siberia, Barbary, and Ethiopia, with long and large broad tails, weighing several pounds: the variety of broad tails found in Thibet, is from Caramania, and from the wool of which the celebrated Cachemire shawls are manufactured. There are other varieties alluded to by Linneus and Dr. Pallas, but which it does not appear necessary to detail here, those already mentioned forming the principal varieties of the species Aries. The varieties of the second and third species we also omit, as their nature, qualities, or present state, do not form any part of the subject proposed to be investigated in the following pages.

The first variety of the Ovis Rustica, or common sheep, is dispersed in Great Britain, under several distinct breeds, which we shall endeavour to class under the names by which they are usually known:

Devonshire	Dartmoor	Combing Wool.
Ditto	Exmoor	Combing ditto.
Scotland	Black-faced, Highland.	Combing ditto.
Norfolk	Norfolk	Fine Carding ditto.
Wales	Mountain	Fine Carding ditto.

The second variety, or Ovis Anglica, forms several breeds peculiar to some counties, and

equally distinct in their characters, which we shall class under the following denominations:

Herefordshire	Ryland	Fine Carding Wool.
Sussex & Surry	Downs, N. S. E. & W.	Fine Carding ditto.
Northumberland	Cheviots	Carding ditto.
Cumberland and Westmoreland	Herdwick	Carding ditto.
Isles	Shetland	Fine Cottony ditto.
Central Counties	Leicester or Dishley	Combing ditto.
Lincolnshire	Lincoln, Old	Combing do. long.
Gloucestershire	Cotteswoulde	Combing ditto.
Yorkshire and Durham	Teeswater	Combing ditto.
Kent	Romsey Marsh	Combing do. long.

The third variety, or Ovis Hispanica, is known in this country as the Merino sheep.

The Paular, Negrette, and Escurial	Finest Carding Wool, (*Travelling Breeds.*)
Estantes	Carding Wool of a coarser kind, (*Stationary Breed.*)

The fourth variety, or Ovis Polycerata, is very rarely met with.*

We have already alluded to some facts in the early history of England connected with this subject. Dr. Davenant and Mr. King have computed, that the produce of wool was about £2,000,000 per annum, and that three-fourths of that amount were consumed in articles of

* See description of it in Dr. Van Troil's Letters on Iceland.

clothing, and other manufactures for home consumption. Wool was formerly the chief article of commerce in its unmanufactured state. The customs on English wool, produced, in the reign of Edward the Third, the sum of £250,000 per annum, which may be considered equivalent to at least £5,000,000 at the present time.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the exportation of wool in its raw or unmanufactured state, was strictly prohibited, and also the conveyance out of the country of live stock, the latter under the penalty of mutilation, fine, and imprisonment; and from this period may be dated the sedulous and watchful jealousy of the English nation and Government, with reference to the protection of sheep and wool, or, in other words, for the prevention of the export of either, the great object being to promote and encourage the fleece and the woollen manufactures of England. This is proved by several successive enactments, all tending to render the growth of wool and the consumption and exportation of manufactured woollen goods, of the most vital importance to the prosperity of the country.

Nothing can more strongly evince the feeling of our ancestors with reference to the importance of the wool trade, denominated the staple commodity of the kingdom, or their anxious

desire to impress the conviction of it upon the minds of the community, and of succeeding generations, than their placing the Lord Chancellor and the Judges upon woolpacks, (or woolsacks, according to the modern denomination,) in the House of Lords; and sorry should we be to see cotton or silk, or any other colonial produce substituted for them. We are sure, as long as Britain remains, that its soil will be our own: how long, in these days of emancipation, our greatest and most flourishing colonies may remain portions of the empire, it is difficult for the wisest or the shrewdest to guess; and we may say, with Dr. Johnson, "agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the *only* riches she can call her own." It is therefore earnestly to be hoped, that what has, in a great measure, sustained for ages the commercial prosperity of the country, both domestic and foreign, and has so materially contributed to enlarge those resources, which have fed the greatness of the empire, may not be cast away never to be recovered, for the sake of the individual gain of a few traders and manufacturers, but involving a serious and irreparable loss of property to numerous classes of landholders, agriculturists, and labourers, whose ruin and pauperism would greatly overbalance the profit account of the former, without

taking into the estimate the vast deficiency in the home consumption of woollens, and consequently the greatly decreased demand for the goods of the manufacturer, as we have indeed formerly observed; but it cannot be too often repeated, that there is, there can be no worse policy than to sacrifice great and productive domestic resources to any species of foreign trade.

From the period we have just alluded to, the prohibitory laws were reinforced and strengthened by successive Parliaments, till, by means of these wise and salutary precautions, the summit of prosperity seemed to have been attained; but, in spite of the wealth accumulated by means of this great and profitable resource for the employment of capital, and notwithstanding all the self-evident demonstrations of the gradual growth of the greatness of the Empire, through the circulation, in various ways, of the surplus capital thus accumulated and continually increasing, the effect has been lost upon the minds of those bold innovators who would stake a nation's prosperity upon the hazard of the die, for the sake of something to them more brilliant, but, alas! unattainable. We all recollect the story of the epitaph, "I was well, I would be better, and here I am;" let us earnestly hope and pray, that Britain's

greatness is not doomed to a similar fate. Let us hope that those bold and daring innovators, who, "at one fell swoop," have thrown down, for the specious and visionary scheme of free trade, those tried and efficient laws, round which have been entwined the prosperity of the country, will pause ere they proceed, or discover in time the urgent necessity of retracing their steps.

It is to be hoped, however, that the wisdom of our ancestors, though it may be in the present day an unfashionable term, will not be held so cheap by His Majesty's Ministers, as to induce them not carefully to examine the grounds upon which the policy of our forefathers was based, certain as we are that the more they investigate them the more fully they must be convinced, that *that* policy was derived from an enlightened practical view of the real interests of the country. Some of the measures which that policy dictated, may be, and no doubt are, unsuitable to the changes which have since taken place, but either its main features must be preserved, or the prospect of the country must change from that bright and smiling one hitherto contemplated with delight, to comparatively a blank and dreary desert.

There is also this most material consideration

to be taken into the account, that that policy has been a most successful one, there being no doubt that through a succession of centuries, it mainly and efficiently contributed to uphold and increase the prosperity of the country. Nor had any circumstance really occurred in the course of nature to abate its success, or render its being persisted in, noxious or mischievous: the only cause to which the change can be attributed is, the temporary ascendancy obtained by the woollen manufacturers, or the effect of their clamour for a cheaper raw material than could be furnished by the home grower. Their efforts, however, would probably not have been successful, had it not been for their *marvellous* discovery of the very extraordinary *sudden* deterioration of British wool! a discovery which is the more remarkable, as it was not made till it was fully ascertained that foreign wools might be purchased at a cheaper rate than those of the same description, of British growth!

It is true, that a boon, (as it is called,) is spoken of for the British grower, namely, the export of his wool, but what avails this with regard to the generality of the wools of Great Britain? The producers of the longest Lincolnshire wools may perhaps be benefited by it, though it can probably only be to a very limited

extent; but the other sorts are obviously unsaleable in the foreign markets, the greater part of Europe producing more wool than is wanted for their own use, and the surplus thus arising being the identical wools which are allowed to be imported into Great Britain, and to undersell the British article in the home market. With reference, therefore, to the greater part of the wools of Britain, the privilege of export would be a mere nominal advantage, a mere delusion, it could not add a half-penny to the prices obtained by the wool grower, nor would it give him the slightest advantage: he must, like the producer of corn, be entirely dependent upon the home market for the sale of his commodity, for any profit to be derived from it, and even for the return of his cost and expenses.

There cannot be a more ruinous policy than that which enables the woollen manufacturer to export cheap goods at the expense of the wool grower: it tends directly and rapidly to destroy, not only the producers of wool, but also the greater part of the breeds of sheep, and, for the loss of this real, this substantial wealth, there is, there can be no substitute.

It is remarkable, that during a period of two hundred and thirty years, from the reign of Edward the Third to that of Elizabeth, no

serious attention appears to have been devoted to our trade in manufactures, with regard to foreign export, but only to that in the raw materials. We had, nevertheless, at the era of the reign of the latter Sovereign, arrived, comparatively with other States, at an important stage of national prosperity. It may, therefore, justly be concluded, that the internal produce of the kingdom, added to the manufactures for its own consumption, or, in other words, its home trade, had then formed, as if properly managed it unquestionably always will, a great and influential proportion of the property and wealth of England, wholly independent of our export trade. Nor should it be forgotten, that the beneficial influence of the latter, and its profit to the community, must always be greatly diminished through the vast imports of foreign produce and manufactures, which we are obliged to take in return for such exports, and for many of which we must, of necessity, pay in cash, it not being possible to purchase them by means of an exchange of commodities.

It is, of course, not meant to be asserted, that considerable wealth is not derived from a profitable foreign commerce. That would be a palpable absurdity. But the balance may be turned too much one way, or too much the

other; and, it should always be borne in mind, that whatever foreign commerce tends to diminish the home produce, or to decrease the home trade, is positively injurious to the community; it may enrich a few individuals, but the general wealth and prosperity of the State are diminished; and, if this system is persevered in, the community become dependent upon foreign nations even for articles of subsistence, and thus, lying at their mercy, they sacrifice their independence. It is only by encouraging the domestic growth and produce, that the real and efficient wealth and prosperity of the State can be secured.*

This was undoubtedly the policy of our ancestors, during the periods we have noted; they might have been, and no doubt were, mistaken in some of their views, because they were too limited, or rather, perhaps, they appear so, at the present day, from the circumstances which then bounded their prospects, having been since removed or changed; but in the broad and distinctive line of their policy, they were undoubtedly right. Some acts of the legislature of those days appear now highly absurd, as, for instance, a statute passed in the

* "The merchant may have a distinct interest from that of his country. He may thrive by a trade which shall prove her ruin."—*The British Merchant.*

reign of Henry the Eighth, under which no person was permitted to possess, at one time, more than 2,000 sheep, exclusive of lambs. We do not mean to advocate measures like this, but to limit ourselves to that general line which marked the policy of our ancestors, and which was directed to the point of the improvement and encouragement of our domestic growth and produce. This was its main and prominent feature, and a continual and watchful jealousy of foreign rivals, or supposed competitors, one of its most characteristic traits. Both might be, and were, at times, overstrained; mistaken means might be adopted, or measures ill calculated to effect their professed object, but that object was still the same, and, through successive generations, was still looked to with the same anxiety.

From the termination of the prosperous and eventful reign of Elizabeth, we have little to add to our brief historical notice on the trade in wool, till the time of Charles the Second, when the well known law was passed, enacting, that no corpse should be interred in any other covering than that of wool, under the penalty of 5*l.*, a measure which has undoubtedly been the cause of a vast annual consumption of woollen manufacture of all qualities, and this not dependent upon the caprice of fashion, but

a regular demand, augmenting in proportion to the increase of the population. But, if protection to the flockmasters is not afforded, so as to enable them to sell their wool in the home market at a remunerating price, this great boon will, in a great measure, be rendered useless to them, as the benefit derived from it will be chiefly transferred to the foreign growers, whose wool must obtain the ascendancy in the British marts, and thus all the advantages intended by the wise and salutary law alluded to, will be lost to the country.

The necessity that formerly pressed upon foreigners to obtain British wool, in order to mix with their own or for other purposes, appears to have continued till the time of Charles the Second, as, in his reign, (12 Charles II. cap. 32.) it was enacted, that any person exporting sheep should forfeit them, together with a penalty of twenty shillings for every sheep; and, from concurring testimony, there can be no doubt, that it had long previously been the prevailing opinion, both in England and in many parts of the Continent, that English wool was essential to the proper manufacturing of several articles of woollen fabric, and that without it the goods of the foreign manufacturer would not compete with those of the English in the same markets. We are aware

that this has been by some authors denied, but all the facts that are authentically known upon the subject lead to no other conclusion, than that British wool was considered essential to various foreign manufactures, otherwise there could have been no possible necessity for all that machinery of prohibitory laws which for so many years existed, nor would there have been that continual smuggling of wool out of the country, which, for so long a period, in defiance of those laws, was continually taking place. There must have been a great temptation to induce persons to incur the risks that were involved in that practice of smuggling, and that could only arise from a foreign demand, and the certainty of obtaining a much greater price than could be hoped for in the home market.

Circumstances have since changed, but the nature and bearing of historical facts cannot be thereby altered, and it appears clearly from them, that there was a continual effort on the part of some of the wool growers, to counteract or evade the laws enacted by the legislature to prevent the exportation of sheep and wool; whilst it is equally true, that licenses for the exportation of wool were not unfrequently granted to individuals, for pecuniary considerations, by the Crown. Still, however,

notwithstanding this latter fact, the general policy of the Government, as well as of the Legislature, remained the same: we have not the means at this day of diving into the reasons which led to the granting of these licenses; in some instances, perhaps, it might be done for the purpose of raising a temporary supply of money; but every one knows that all general measures, of whatever nature, are subject to exceptions; the strict prohibitions of Buonaparte, for instance, against British commerce, were not unfrequently superseded by licenses granted to individuals, for large pecuniary considerations; but the tortuous rule of policy which he had adopted remained nevertheless the same.

Resuming our historical notice, it would appear, that the transferring of the staple of wool, from Brabant to different towns in England and Ireland, in the year 1353, in the reign of Edward the Third, was the first measure that led to the carrying on any considerable foreign trade in England. Calais alone, of the foreign stations, retained its privilege as a staple town, until in 1556, in the reign of Mary, that fortress was given up to the French. The staple was then transferred from thence again to Bruges, in the early part of the reign of Elizabeth, who confirmed the charter and all the privileges, which had been possessed by the mayor and

corporation of the staple of England previous to the loss of Calais. These exclusive privileges, however, appear to have been upon the wane in the next reign, that of James the First, who, by granting, in 1617, a new charter to the merchant adventurers, seems to have confirmed their powers, and to have annihilated the privileges of the staplers, a Company which is now only known by name, the Inn of Chancery, in Holborn, called Staple Inn, and some offices in Westminster, which were destroyed at the time of building Westminster Bridge, being the places where their business was transacted. Since the period alluded to, it may be considered as an open trade in England and Ireland, and, after the Union with Scotland, in Great Britain.

It is, of course, well known, that the 12 Charles II., the year just alluded to, (1660,) was the first year of the actual reign of that monarch, when such of the Acts passed during the Interregnum and Protectorate, as it was thought expedient to continue in force, were re-enacted by the Parliament assembled at the Restoration, and entitled of the 12th of Charles II., the beginning of whose reign was dated from the day of his father's martyrdom. During the Protectorate, however, of Cromwell, no event of importance with reference to our wool

or its manufactures appears to have occurred, unless it be that several works on agriculture, by Hartlib, Plattes, Blythe, and others, produced a favourable disposition towards it on the part of the people, which was in no way thwarted by the Protector, though unfortunately agriculture was very shortly doomed to be neglected by the nobility and gentry.

In the course of the reign of Charles the Second, several Acts were passed, prohibiting the exportation of wool, and also of fullers' earth, under the penalties of the forfeiture of the commodities, and of three shillings for every pound weight, with the additional punishment of three months' imprisonment to the master and mariners knowingly committing the offence, and the forfeiture of ship and cargo; nor was it permitted to carry wool coastwise, without notice, and bonds of security being given to the officers of the customs, in order to prevent a pretended coasting trade from being made a cover for clandestine exportation; the not giving such bonds rendering the parties liable to penalties. This part of the law was repealed by the 1st William and Mary, cap. 32, by which it was enacted, that a register should be kept in the custom-house at London, of all wool carried coastwise, throughout the kingdom; but again, by the statute of 7 and 8 William III.,

the removal of wool within certain distances of the sea-coast, was prohibited, except with licence and on giving securities, under heavy penalties. The enactments, prohibiting the exportation of wool and fullers' earth, were renewed and further enforced, in the reigns of George the First and George the Second, the punishment being then made transportation for seven years, if the penalties were not paid. It having, however, been discovered, that in order to evade the law, and escape its penalties, a practice had arisen of exporting the wool in a rough state of manufacture, the Act of the 12 George II. cap. 21, was passed, which prohibited the exportation of coverlids or beds stuffed with wool, which was capable of being again used as wool, under the same penalties that were attached to the exportation of the raw material.

Thus it appears that up to this late period, (1739,) the same policy with regard to our wool was maintained and acted upon, that had marked the course of several preceding centuries. A succession of Parliaments and of Governments, widely differing in many respects from each other, with reference to numerous most important points connected with the national welfare and prosperity, agreed nevertheless in pursuing and adopting the same line of

policy with reference to our fleece and our wool, the object in view invariably being to protect our domestic interests against foreign rivalry and competition. Whether the opinion was right or wrong that our wool was essential to various foreign manufactures, is in this point of view of no consequence, the obvious intention of the policy acted upon being still the same, and its object, whether mistaken or not, being invariably what we have just stated.

It is, indeed, to a similar policy constantly acted upon by successive Parliaments, that all our manufactures are indebted for their present pre-eminence; for whether it was the prohibiting the export of the raw material, or the forbidding the import of the manufactured article, the object was the same, namely, the promoting the growth and prosperity of our domestic interests. How could the various branches of our cotton manufacture, our Porcelain, or various other articles, have struggled against foreign competition, but for the fostering hand of legislative protection? And it is a little too much for the manufacturers of the present day, who owe all the wealth and influence they have acquired, to the protection freely granted them by the landed interest in Parliament, to endeavour to wrest from the agriculturists, the sheep farmers, and the wool

growers, that protection which is absolutely essential, not merely to their welfare, but to their very existence as a class, or in their relative stations in society. The former have had their full measure of protection, and have by means of it immensely benefited; but how slender, comparatively, would have been their profit, had it not been for the vast consumption at home of the articles they produced, by their agricultural customers.

It is in thus making one interest uphold another, and all sustain all, (if we may be allowed such an expression,) by means of the mutual interchange of support, that the policy of our ancestors acted upon by successive Parliaments and Governments nearly up to the present day, consisted. It has not been a theory, nor has it been a failure: it was founded in practical good with a view to the interests of Britain, and long, very long experience, has demonstrated its practical wisdom. Every class paid a price for the articles, of whatever nature they consumed, (or at least for most of them,) higher than they could have obtained them for had no prohibitions of export or import been enforced; but, in consequence of those prohibitions increasing the wealth and prosperity of the producers, all classes of consumers possessed much greater means of purchasing, and much

more money at command, than they could possibly have had, had not those prohibitions existed, or in other words, had not the producers been by that means protected in the home market against foreign competition.

This is the whole secret of that policy to which the British Empire is indebted for its great wealth and pre-eminence: all the interests of the country have been made to sustain and promote each other; and woe to the State, when, by a change in that policy, the interests of one numerous class of producers shall be sacrificed to those of another. It will then too soon be discovered, that ruin has been spread in a tenfold greater degree than additional prosperity has been infused; and that a fatal mistake has been committed, which, unless early retrieved, will quickly become irreparable. It is only by keeping the balance as even as possible, that a due adjustment can be preserved: the rash hand that would make one scale preponderate, would, whatever might be his intentions, be accessary to the ruin of his country.

Amidst the jarring and contentions of rival and conflicting interest, the truth is frequently difficult to be discovered; but it is for impartial Statesmen and Legislators, who have the means of looking on all sides around

them, to adjust the balance with a due regard to the welfare and prosperity of all classes, never forgetting that the true wealth of a country is that which forms the nerves and sinews of its prosperity and strength, and which is derived from its internal resources. And let it ever be borne in mind, that it is to the continual cherishing of these resources, by means of the wise practical measures of our ancestors, that we are indebted for the broad basis upon which the vast superstructure of our prosperity has been reared. It was by the gradual operation of those measures that that wealth was early acquired, which afforded the means of embarking in those voyages and commercial adventures, that led to the establishment of that vast commerce, and of many of those immense manufactures, which have so mainly contributed to the greatness of the Empire.

If we look back to the opening of any of our great sources of commerce, or to the planting of any of our colonies, we shall find that in almost every instance, it was the money of private individuals, gained in trade and business, that was chiefly contributed for the purpose. They of course looked to profit; but whether they gained or lost, the country was ultimately benefited. These speculations, however, could not have been hazarded, had there not been a surplus capital accumulated,

which those who possessed it could afford then to venture; nor could that surplus capital have existed, had it not been for the early policy of the English Government and Legislature in fostering, encouraging, and protecting the domestic growth and manufactures of the State, by means of which an available capital was in time created.

It is true that many parts of that policy would not be effective, but the contrary, at the present day: but this makes no difference with reference to the principle upon which it was founded, which undoubtedly was that of protection to British interests against foreign rivalry and competition. And that principle must still, in some shape, be rendered operative, or the downward course of Britain's greatness will be much more rapid than its rise. For let it ever be remembered, in looking to this great question, that the resources of the Empire, such as they have been made by these protective measures, have been drawn upon, and, as it were, mortgaged for the use and benefit of the State, and for the support and maintenance of its institutions; and that if they do not produce their accustomed supply, the whole fabric of the community becomes disorganized, and totters to destruction.

This argument applies with equal force to

every considerable branch of those resources, because one cannot be materially injured without the others being proportionably affected, or rather in an increased ratio, as each being much lessened, they would all be much more diminished than from the single effect of the original cause. On the contrary, give them all due protection, and they sustain and improve each other, each supplying a number of consumers for the produce of the others, by which the profits of all, and the internal wealth of the country, are continually increased. It is by such means that capital is accumulated, and that considerable portions of it have from time to time been spared, for the purpose of extending the commerce and dominion of the British Empire in remote parts of the world.

But the separation from the mother country of great part of our former American Colonies, now forming the United States of America, affords a striking proof, that Colonies, however they may for a time increase the commercial prosperity of the country, and add to the greatness of the Empire, cannot be calculated upon as forming any part of the internal resources of the State. These must be still looked for at home, and kept at home. If they are parted with, or greatly diminished for the benefit of Colonies, the real seat of Empire is in effect

transferred to those Colonies, and the mother country is left at the mercy of circumstances, which it is frequently utterly impossible for her to controul. The policy of making the interests of Colonies subservient to those of the parent State, has been consequently adopted by most of those communities in modern times, by which Colonies have been founded or settled.

There is of course between the two extremes of very tightly braced restrictions, and the entirely identifying the interests of any Colonies with the mother country, a middle path, which it is perhaps, in general, the wisest and the safest to pursue, but still holding fast within the bounds of the home demesne, the main springs of the strength and vigour of the country; and thus arises the policy of preventing the domestic growth and produce of the Empire from being overborne in the home market, by any species of colonial articles of consumption. It is by adopting and steadily pursuing this line of policy, combined with that of generally protecting the domestic interests of the country, that the Colonies of the British Empire have been made so materially to contribute to our wealth and prosperity. This has sometimes been called a narrow policy; but, limiting our view to the British Empire, we have no hesitation in denominating it a truly British policy,

involving as it does the real interests, the welfare, and prosperity of Britain.

In the brief outline to which this part of the work is necessarily confined, it will not of course be expected, nor is it possible that every fact, connected with the subject, should be noticed: it is sufficient to mark the general course of the stream of policy regarding it which has been pursued, and those deviations from it, which, from their importance, or their serious practical effects, demand or deserve observation. The restrictive policy already mentioned, continued, in fact, till the reign of his present Majesty, till the year 1824, when the reduction of the duty on the importation of foreign wool, from sixpence to one penny per pound, was enacted by Parliament, and passed into a law; a reduction of duty, almost unparalleled, as relates to any article of foreign produce, coming in competition with a similar commodity, the growth of the United Kingdom.

The natural consequence was, an immense increase in the quantity of foreign wool brought into this country. There had indeed been a great augmentation in the import of this article during the two preceding years, in anticipation no doubt, of the change in our policy regarding it, which was then known to be in contemplation; as in the years 1822 and 1823, the in-

crease from Germany alone, was from 5,113,442 pounds to 11,125,114 pounds, and a proportionate increase arrived from the Netherlands and Russia: within the same period also, the imports from Spain were nearly doubled. The total increase in the importation of foreign wool, in 1822, was 6,855,203 pounds; in 1823, 9,278,776 pounds; and in 1824, 14,225,355 pounds.

It may, therefore, be calculated, that since December 1824, (the date of the law reducing the duty), the State has sustained a loss of from £300,000. to £400,000. per annum, which, according to the rate of the old duty, would have been payable upon the quantity of foreign wool thus imported.

It is scarcely necessary to remark, that to render so large an importation of any foreign article serviceable to the community, there ought to be a proportionate increase in the exportation of home produce or manufactures, and not merely, in, strictly speaking, a proportion, but to make up for that deficiency at home, which has necessarily arisen from the depreciation in the market price, and consequently in the value of the wool of domestic growth. It appears, however, on an examination of the amount of exports, during the periods just alluded to, that in point of fact there has been no material increase. It can,

therefore, only be concluded, that our home trade has consumed the whole of the foreign raw material, and thus has arisen the immense loss already sustained, and now sustaining, by the growers of our own native produce, and by all those depending upon them, or deriving a profit from their expenditure. Does not the loss, in this case, both in a national and individual point of view, greatly overbalance the advantage?

It is not merely the loss in this respect, but it is obvious, that in consequence of the great diminution in the value of native wool, much fewer sheep will be bred, and thus the price of meat will, from its comparative scarcity, be considerably increased to the consumer. It is well known, that through the great depreciation which has, within the last few years, taken place in this country in the value of hides, skins, tallow, and the offal, in general, of animals, arising from the increased importation of articles of the same description from foreign states, the price of meat has risen to the consumer, without any corresponding benefit to the grazier, there being a great difference between the prices returned to the farmer by the salesman, for his beasts and sheep, and that at which the meat is retailed to the consumer, which is solely to be attributed to the cause just mentioned,

namely, the greatly diminished value of the hides, skins, tallow, and offal, as every butcher can testify: nor would it be too much to say, that the price of meat is thus increased one penny half-penny per pound to the consumer.

Were the prices of the articles manufactured from these raw materials proportionably diminished, it would be some trifling compensation; but it is matter of notoriety, that in no case have those prices decreased so much as ten per cent., whilst, in many instances, there has been no diminution whatever; the market value of the raw materials just alluded to, having, in the mean time, fallen at least fifty per cent. Is it not then too evident to be denied, that by such a course of policy, a vast advantage has been given to the foreigner, not only without any corresponding benefit to the home producer or consumer, but to the positive detriment, injury, and loss, of both parties.

Under such circumstances, the determination so patriotically expressed by the late Lord Somerville, might be fairly acted upon by the agriculturists of Great Britain, until they were enabled to obtain such protection against foreign competition, as the heavy burdens imposed upon them necessarily require. "I am resolved," said his Lordship, "never again to wear superfine cloth or kerseymere, *any part* of

which shall be of foreign growth." If the landholders of the country interested in the native fleece, and her numerous yeomanry, were perseveringly to act upon such a determination, it would undoubtedly soon give a different complexion to the woollen trade, and we should no longer be told, that the British grown fleece was unfit for the manufacture of good wearable cloth.

There remains to be noticed, as important facts, with relation to the history of sheep and wool in Great Britain, the improvements made in the breeds of sheep, by the late Mr. Bakewell, of Dishley, and the subsequent introduction by his late Majesty, of Merino sheep. The exertions made by Mr. Bakewell, to improve the quality of the fleece, as well as the shape and proportions of the animal, are too well known to need much detail here. He succeeded in producing a valuable breed of long-wooled sheep, which have since, by means of various crosses, been diffused over great part of England, and a general improvement has thus been effected, which is most remarkable, considering that it has been brought about through the persevering exertions of one individual. There are, of course, some districts, in which, from various causes, originating in the nature of soil and climate, the Dishley sheep cannot be

successfully introduced, but, generally speaking, the improvement thus effected has been found most valuable.

The introduction of Merino sheep by our late Sovereign George the Third, decidedly proved his Majesty's earnest and most patriotic desire to benefit his country. And though all the advantages that were anticipated from this measure have not been derived from it, this circumstance does not in the least detract from its great merit, but, on the contrary, is to be attributed to the prejudices, we may even add, the perverseness, in some instances, of many of those who might otherwise have rendered the experiment much more beneficial to the State, as well as advantageous to themselves. The original stock, consisting of five rams and thirty-five ewes, of pure blood, were sent as a present to his Majesty, in 1792, by the Marchioness del Campo de Alenzo, who received in return eight English coach horses. Every means were resorted to by command of his Majesty, for the purpose of so diffusing the produce of this flock, that crosses with the native breeds might be effected with facility. But a host of prejudices were quickly embodied against the diffusion of this breed, and it is a curious fact, that when his Majesty, aided by some of the leading agriculturists of the day, made the most strenuous

exertions to introduce the Merinos generally into Great Britain, no persons were more decidedly opposed to it than the woollen manufacturers; whilst, upon a recent enquiry, we find the same class actually taunting the wool grower with his want of attention to the improvement of his wool, and with thus allowing foreigners to supersede him in the home market! A passage from Lord Somerville's work becomes here peculiarly applicable: it is as follows:

"Many of the fine cloth manufacturers fancying, but without a shadow of reason, that it would be detrimental to themselves, wholly forgetting that they formed a part of that community whose interests they were bound to support, have laboured with no common pains to poison the minds of people in general on this subject; such we mean as from their pursuits could not either be well versed in trade or in husbandry; and for a short time succeeded: but who, by encouraging the wear of British cloths, would have given in the outset some little support to a national undertaking like this. Such manœuvres were unworthy British manufacturers, however for a short time they might succeed. It is not impossible that to do this the more effectually, some cloths have been sent to the London market purposely ill manufactured. We would rather suppose they could not be so mischiev-

ously blind to their own interest; but such an idea must suggest itself when we see the native cloths produced, worse in quality than those made long ago; such as hunters cloths, and other sorts known in the London markets. We have even been at a loss to conjecture from what cause our clothiers should set their faces against that improvement by which every part of the nation must unquestionably derive such material benefit."

"There is not one well grounded reason for the opposition shown to our endeavours. Were they all republican Frenchmen, they could have done no more. With pain we must reflect upon it, but we refrain from indulging in that bitter invective, which such narrow policy has of late provoked, and content ourselves with remarking, that these gentlemen have fattened on the indulgence of Government; and as is natural, indeed correct on such occasions, have been the first to fly in the face of its liberal and salutary measures."

It is deeply to be lamented, that the opportunity so patriotically afforded by his late Majesty, of improving the native breeds of sheep, should not have been embraced with more cordiality by the wool growers in general: that it was not so, is chiefly to be accounted for by the opposition made, as already observed, by the woollen manufacturers; though at the same

time it is too true, that many of the wool growers were not so solicitous to improve the qualities of the fleece, as might have been reasonably expected; and also that many were disheartened from further prosecuting their experiments, in consequence of the tricks practised upon them by individuals in substituting rams of little value for those of the pure Merino breed, though these deceptions might in many cases have been avoided, had the purchasers taken mere ordinary pains and trouble. It is, however, still more to be regretted, that a policy should of late have been adopted and acted upon by the Government and the Legislature which tends to prevent the improvement of the native fleece, by taking away from the wool grower the pecuniary means of making any; for what outlay can he afford to make upon experiments, whatever may be the utility they promise, if the article he now produces is rendered unsaleable except at a heavy loss, through the effect of foreign competition? It is only by giving him a reasonable protection, that he can be enabled to grow wool of a better quality; it is at the same time obvious, that for such protection the State would be amply repaid by the renewed stimulus which would be thus given to all other branches of industry, and by the additional wealth which would thus be thrown into its coffers.

THE

CUSTOMS AND PRACTICE OF TENANCY

NOW MOST PREVALENT IN THE

HIGHLAND AND GRAZING COUNTIES.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

THROUGHOUT the greater part of this county, large returns are annually made from cattle and grain, especially the former, except in its south western part, where the farmers entirely depend upon sheep and wool.

The climate is more severe, and the hills of a greater elevation, than those in Perthshire, which contain much the same description of minerals, and afford a similar pasture; but advancing farther towards the east, the more plentifully is found the finer kind of pasture, growing in the vallies and under the hills.

The flocks are, during the winter, removed from the mountains into the low country, and placed as near to the sea side as the means of procuring food for them will allow; but the difficulty of obtaining keep for them is annually increasing, in consequence of the extensive plantations made by many of the land owners, the sheep being thus deprived of their former range until the trees are grown out of their reach. The expence of wintering amounts to about 1*s.* 6*d.* per head, which may be considered equivalent to one third of the annual rent,

including winter pasturage and the rent to the landlord, half of which ought to be paid by the produce of the wool, to enable a tenant to obtain a subsistence from a sheep farm in this district.

Farms are generally held for the term of nineteen years: they are entered upon at Whitsuntide, that is to say, the house, garden, and permanent pasture, the arable land being held by the outgoing tenant till the separation of the crop: the periods of entry thus arranged, are indeed the general practice throughout Scotland, with of course exceptions, which are noticed when necessary in the Shires where they respectively exist.

The rents in Aberdeenshire are paid only once a year; and the tenant not having, from the commencement of his lease, to pay rent for a year and a half, he is enabled to take a crop, or a year's produce, previous to being called upon for any rent. The highway tax is defrayed, three fourths by the tenant, and the remainder by the landlord, an assessment of 40*s*. for every £100. Scots being levied on the valued rent, according to which value the county rates are collected at the present time. These rates are thus charged very unequally upon the land, as the rents having been valued about the time of the Union, and property capable of improvement

having since that period of course greatly increased in worth, whilst the valued rent remaining the same, it is only subject to the same assessment that was then imposed upon it, it follows, that, in many instances, a property worth £5,000. pays no more to the rates than one of the value of only £1000., or in similar proportions, whilst in other cases the real rent has become lower than the valued rent. On the whole, however, there may, perhaps, be as much money collected, as if the rates were more equally assessed.

The cause of the valued, being in some instances higher and in others lower than the actual rent, (independent of subsequently improved value), was the returns made at the period alluded to, by many of the land owners, who wished to be considered by the world as persons possessed of a larger amount of property than really belonged to them; and by others, who, having duly considered the consequences, gave in a less amount than they received.

In the sheep district, the proportion of arable land is very trifling, only a few acres being attached to each farm for the purpose of obtaining winter food for the cows; and which is in general held under a restriction, prohibiting the tenant from working it in any other mode than the

seven shift, or obliging him to keep it in grass for three years.

It is not obligatory either upon the landlord or incoming tenant, to take the stock of a farm at the expiration of a lease, but the farmers are very desirous that such a practice should be introduced. The sheep, which are all of the black-faced breed, are usually kept as rearing stock; but the farmers not being able to rear so many wedders as they require, are consequently obliged to purchase them, which they make a practice of doing in the more southern counties of Scotland, from whence they generally select their tups.

In many parts of this county, as well as of Perthshire, the sheep are deprived of the herbage at the bases of the mountains by the cattle; and in other respects there does not appear nearly such good management with reference to the sheep, in either of these districts, as may be witnessed in other parts of Scotland. In various quarters, the hogs, ewes, and wedders, run all together, which cannot by any one be thought advisable; and in general the hogs are allowed to run with the wedder sheep; the consequence of which is, that the strong old sheep draw the young ones about after them, and eat up every thing; and thus the greater part of the stock becomes poor and small. If

the land which the cattle occupy were kept for the hogs, (and the ewes at lambing time), and the hogs were allowed to feed there during only a few hours each day, being afterwards sent back to the heather, there is no doubt that the sheep would become larger and stronger at an earlier age, or that a greater number of them might be kept on the land. The farmers, however, in many districts, and indeed throughout the greater part of Scotland, have been obliged, in several respects, to alter their system, in consequence of the low price of wool, that article of produce being so much depended upon for the purpose of making up the rent; and many of them have turned their attention to cattle.

In the southern counties of Scotland, where the pasture is better and more equally divided, cattle may be kept on a part of the walk, whilst at the same time the sheep are not deprived of their food, because they can have as good a supply elsewhere; but in this mountainous district, fine herbage, which is only to be found at the bases of the hills, may be considered almost invaluable to a sheep farm; nor can cattle be kept upon it without a positive injury to the flock; for what may appear to be gained by the one is more than lost by the other, the condition of the latter being rendered comparatively

much worse than that of the former is bettered.

The wool grown in this county is always washed; but it is not smeared with tar and butter, or with any other ointment or composition, it being, for the greater part, manufactured into worsted at Aberdeen, which renders it an object of importance to preserve the natural colour of the wool. It is sold by the stone of 28 pounds English, which is considered equal to the double stone in Perthshire; as a remunerating price, the farmers would require 20*s.* per stone. The following are the actual prices, as stated by them, during the last ten years, of wool and wedder sheep;—

	Wool per Stone, 28 pounds.			Wedders, Three Years old.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
In 1819	1	12	0	1	12	0
1820	1	7	0	1	10	0
1821	1	4	0	0	19	0
1822	0	18	0	0	16	0
1823	0	14	0	0	15	0
1824	0	14	0	1	4	0
1825	0	13	6	1	8	0
1826	0	12	0	0	17	6
1827	0	12	0	1	1	0
1828	0	10	6	1	0	0

The shepherds here, and throughout Scotland, are paid nearly in the same kind of way, namely, by pasture for a certain number of

sheep and for a cow, a house, ground for potatoes, and a certain quantity of meal for their domestic consumption; single men commonly live in the house, and have wages in money to the amount of from £11. to £16. per Annum, in proportion to character and respectability, together with pasture for their sheep. This mode of remuneration is undoubtedly founded in good policy, as the interest of the shepherd is thus combined with that of his master; and on all extensive sheep farms, where there are several shepherds, one acts as a check upon the other, each shepherd having not only his own sheep mingled with those of his master to attend to, but also some belonging to his fellow servants; they are thus all desirous that justice should be done to the sheep, and are not slow in making complaints when they think it necessary, or where there is any neglect or mismanagement.

The mode just described of engaging and paying shepherds, being that generally in use in all parts of Scotland, it will be unnecessary to repeat it in the descriptions of the other counties. The same may be said with regard to the expense of smearing the sheep, which is in general, throughout the country, sixpence per head.

The practice of entry likewise, is nearly the same throughout Scotland, namely, as before, stated, to take possession of the house, sheep pasture, gardens, &c., at Whitsuntide, but not to enter upon the arable land till the separation of the crop: it will be therefore equally unnecessary to repeat this; but where there is any difference, it will of course be noticed.

ARGYLESHIRE.

The climate of this county is milder and the herbage finer than in some of the northern districts. The farmers depend considerably upon sheep and wool, but black cattle are also a prevailing stock. They, in general, hold their land under leases for terms of from seven to nineteen years, and pay their rent yearly at Martinmas, (the 11th of November,) which commences from the expiration of the first half year after entry. In some cases, however, the rent is paid half-yearly, or at two terms, viz. Whit-Sunday and Martinmas.

Those highways which belong, as it were, to the county, are kept in repair by means of a rate assessed and levied in equal proportions upon the landlord and the tenant; those which are called Parliamentary are maintained, partly by Parliamentary grants, and partly by means of an assessment levied upon the proprietors of the soil.

The landlords are in some instances bound to take the stock of a farm when quitted by the tenant, but this depends upon special agreement, there being no custom to that effect;

when they do, they in general select a new tenant, who will take off their hands the stock, which they have thus been compelled to purchase, at a valuation. It is, however, considered here to be decidedly for the interest of all parties, generally speaking, that the landlord should be bound to take the stock of his leaving tenant, as both himself and the incoming tenant would thereby be gainers, or at least would not be subject to the loss which must otherwise attend, (unless under peculiar circumstances,) a contrary practice. With regard to the buildings on a farm, they might perhaps in some cases be advantageously subjected to a similar system, but this must depend altogether upon circumstances peculiar to each farm: at present, they belong to the landlord, but are kept in repair at the expense of the tenant.

The proportion of arable land attached to the sheep farms in this county, which is very limited, is not in general subjected to any restrictions as to its cultivation; nor can any regular system of tillage perhaps be applied to it: whatever crop of straw is made from it, belongs, on any change taking place in the holding of the ground, to the outgoing tenant.

The flocks, at least on those sheep farms that are considered well managed, are not permitted to run together, the wedders being separated

from the ewes, and the hogs or young store being also generally kept by themselves. The ewes usually have their first lamb at two years old. The greater part of the sheep kept in this county are of the black-faced or Lintin breed, which are considered better adapted to the soil and climate than the Cheviot sheep or any of the cross breeds. The average weight of a fleece of laid or unwashed wool, from the black-faced sheep, is five pounds, and that of a fleece of white or washed wool, three pounds. The wool is coarse, though much superior in quality to what it was a few years since, and it might, doubtless, be still further improved. With regard to the Cheviot wool, it is thought, that were any improvement attempted to be made in it, the means which must be adopted for that purpose would render the animal too delicate to endure the rigour of a northern climate. The rent of land, with reference to sheep farms, is estimated at from 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per sheep.

The prices of sheep and of wool, which are here considered as remunerating ones, are, for wedders, (black-faced,) 20*s.* to 21*s.*; ewes, of the same breed, from 10*s.* to 12*s.*; lambs, from 7*s.* to 8*s.*; a stone (of twenty-four pounds,) of laid wool, 9*s.*; and of white wool, 11*s.* The actual prices obtained, will be seen by the fol-

lowing statement of the averages of the last ten years, as given by the farmers themselves: In

	Wedders, per Score of 21.			Ewes, per ditto.			Lambs, per ditto.			Wool, per Double Stone, White and Laid, 24lb. to the Stone.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1819	21	0	0	8	10	0	8	10	0	1	1	0
1820	19	10	0	7	0	0	8	10	0	1	0	0
1821	14	0	0	6	10	0	6	0	0	0	18	0
1822	13	0	0	6	0	0	4	0	0	0	13	0
1823	15	0	0	4	0	0	4	5	0	0	10	0
1824	16	0	0	6	10	0	5	0	0	0	12	0
1825	21	0	0	10	0	0	7	0	0	0	18	0
1826	14	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	10	0
1827	16	0	0	10	0	0	6	10	0	0	13	0
1828	15	0	0	9	0	0	6	0	0	0	12	0

The returns from a stock of 1,000 breeding ewes are estimated in the same manner, and present the same prices as in Invernessshire, to which, in order to avoid repetitions, we refer our readers. It will be seen from these, that, as in the district just referred to, the sheep farmers cannot pay the rent charged upon the land, and at the same time subsist themselves and their families, without an annual sacrifice of capital; and it is so obvious that this must lead eventually to ruin, unless a favourable change takes place in the state of the markets, that it is scarcely necessary to say so: speculators are to be found ready to take farms, which have been given up by their former occupiers, and this, no

doubt, in the hope of better prices, but if that hope is not ere long realized, their speculation must become a ruinously losing one. Had the rent of land been lowered in the same proportion as prices have fallen, the farmers might have existed on a diminished scale of profit, they would of course have received less, but they would have had proportionably less to pay, as far as relates to the question of rent, and to this it must come at last, unless prices again rise, as no one will ultimately be found to take land at a rent greatly disproportioned to its returns; neither will the landlords be enabled, without such rents as they have been accustomed to receive, to defray all those excessive burdens and taxes now falling upon them both directly and indirectly.

The farmers in the Highlands labour under many disadvantages, nor can they easily form any plan for their own benefit: they seldom meet, (owing to the state of the country, and the great distances at which they live from each other,) except at the sheep and wool fairs, and though all of them are ready to lend their aid to any project for their mutual advantage, yet no one is disposed to take the lead. It is not merely the difficulty of arranging any plan or carrying it into effect, that causes this indisposition to take any preparatory step, but also that feeling which operates upon them similar

with the southern farmers, who would, for the greater part, be equally averse to become the originators of any projected measure, did they not generally find some individual of a different station and of higher rank to preside at their public meetings, and thus take that lead which they themselves naturally decline with regard to each other. This is the true reason why the Highland farmers have quietly suffered so long under a continued series of losses, through the effect of which, their ruin is daily making a nearer and nearer approach.

The shepherds in this county are paid by being allowed the pasturage of sixty sheep, the annual keep of two milch cows, and the weekly supply of a stone of meal. It is estimated that the produce of the wool ought to be sufficient to defray two-thirds of the rent, in order to enable the farmer to obtain any sufficient return for the time and labour he bestows, and the capital invested in his farm. It is needless to point out, as the statements of prices speak for themselves, how much short of this mark are the actual receipts for wool.

It is common here, as in some other districts, to put the sheep out to winter pasture, the expense of which is estimated at about 2*s*. per head. At other periods the ewe flocks are generally interspersed through the county, like other descriptions of sheep.

BERWICKSHIRE.

The natural herbage of this county is of a very coarse quality; it consists chiefly of heath, moss, ling, bent, &c. with a proportion of grass and meadow land. It affords both summer and winter pasture. The flocks are usually divided into three kinds, viz. ewes, wethers, and hogs, or lambs, and which are in general classed separately: on some farms the stock is all ewe; in others the descriptions above mentioned are kept, but wethers alone do not form a stock on any farm.

The greater part of the stock of sheep here is of the Cheviot breed; a few farms however, are stocked with the black-faced sheep, and in some instances a cross has been tried between the black-faced ewe and the Leicester ram; but this experiment being a very recent one, the result remains to be proved. The ewes have their first lamb at two years old. The average weight of a laid fleece is 3½ pounds.

The following are considered by the farmers as remunerating prices; for ewes and wethers 20*s.*; for lambs 8*s.*; for Cheviot wool 20*s.*, and for black-faced wool 14*s.* per stone of 24 pounds

Imperial. The black-faced sheep are generally sold before the time of clipping, and the Cheviot in the autumn; but the former with the wool on, and the latter without it, are esteemed of nearly the same value. The expense of smearing the sheep is from $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $3d.$ per head.

In this, as in some districts of Scotland, it is not believed that the climate or herbage would suit any finer kind of sheep than the black-faced or Cheviot, it being the general opinion that any breed producing wool of superior quality, must inevitably perish from the effects of a climate and food, totally uncongenial to their constitutions.

The average rent of land is estimated at $5s.$ per sheep, one half of which it is calculated ought to be defrayed by the produce of the wool. In order to be commensurate to the present diminished prices, the rents ought to have been reduced one fourth; but as there have been very few contracts entered into for farms since the prices have so much decreased, no opinion can be formed as to the disposition of individuals to take lands at the present rents. It is, however, but too certain, that if the low prices which for some time past have so wretchedly reduced the return of the farmer, are fated to continue, the consequences must be ruinous to

the present tenants of land, and ultimately lead to a general reduction in the value of stock farms.

The sheep in Berwickshire are kept at home both in summer and winter.

The average prices during the last ten years, are stated by the farmers, as follows:

	Ewes.		Wedders.		Lambs.		Cheviot Wool.		Black-faced do.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
In 1819 ..	25	0 ..	27	0 ..	10	0 ..	24	0 ..	14	0
1820 ..	20	0 ..	23	0 ..	8	0 ..	21	0 ..	13	6
1821 ..	13	6 ..	17	6 ..	4	6 ..	18	0 ..	12	0
1822 ..	12	0 ..	14	0 ..	6	0 ..	16	0 ..	10	0
1823 ..	12	0 ..	20	0 ..	4	6 ..	13	0 ..	7	6
1824 ..	15	0 ..	18	0 ..	5	0 ..	14	0 ..	8	0
1825 ..	20	0 ..	23	0 ..	8	0 ..	20	0 ..	14	0
1826 ..	13	6 ..	15	6 ..	5	0 ..	12	0 ..	7	6
1827 ..	16	0 ..	18	0 ..	6	0 ..	10	0 ..	6	6
1828 ..	18	0 ..	20	0 ..	7	0 ..	9	0 ..	6	0

The wool is all sold here by the stone of 24 pounds English.

There is no custom in this county, binding the landlords to take the stock of their tenants at the expiration of a lease: neither is the incoming tenant under any obligation to take the stock; nor is the introduction of such a practice considered to be advisable. The buildings on the farms, which belong to the landlords, are kept in repair by the tenants.

The repairs of the roads are nominally effected by means of statute labour, but which is

now commuted for by money payments, 1*s.* 6*d.* being paid for each labourer, and 18*s.* 6*d.* for each plough; the greater part of the sum so collected, is of course thus paid by the tenants.

The farms are all entered upon at the usual period in Scotland, the 26th of May, and are held upon leases for terms of from 16 to 19 and 21 years. The rents are paid half yearly, the first term of payment being the Martinmas subsequent to the entry. A proportion of arable land is generally attached to each farm, the mode of managing which is usually prescribed in the lease, it being subjected to various restrictions. The mode of stocking a farm depends greatly upon its situation, and the various circumstances connected with it; where a flock of all ewes can be kept, it is considered more profitable than where the farmer is obliged to have a proportion of ewes, wethers, and lambs; and in the former case, the rent is higher than in the latter, such farms being considered of greater value than those where the stock, on account of climate and situation, can only be of a mixed description.

DORSETSHIRE.

The quality and character of the herbage in this county, vary according to the nature of the soil, which may be chiefly classed in two divisions, the Uplands and the Meadows. In the former, it principally consists of *Cynosurus cristatus,* crested dogs' tail grass, and *Poa trivialis;* in the latter, of *Alopecurus Pratensis,* meadow foxtail, *Anthoxanthum odoratum,* sweet vernal grass, and *Poa Pratensis,* smooth stalked meadow grass. The native sheep are the large horned kind, but, of late, many of the farmers have adopted the South Downs and others, much crossed with them; the prevailing stock, however, is at present Dorset, but it is not expected to continue so long. The reduction of the duty upon the importation of foreign wool has been felt here as a great injury, by the wool growers, who are of opinion that a duty of four-pence per pound, would be an adequate protection, but that without this, they cannot make any stand in the home markets against foreign competition.

The whitest fleeces here, are those which are produced upon the Downs, where the land

is not heavy, nor are the sheep liable to have the drifted soil mixed with the wool: where they are exposed in elevated situations, and reduced to harder feeding, the wool becomes harsh: the finest wool in this county, is that which grows the fastest upon rich pastures, that is to say, not a rank or marshy soil, but good pasture land. It has been remarked here, as well as in other districts, that the first growth of the wool, after shearing, feels harsh to the touch, which is considered to be, as it were, a natural consequence of what is generally the case, exposure to the weather, very soon after that operation has been performed.

With regard to smearing or covering the sheep with any unguent, it is thought here, that if any oily preparation were mixed with the wool, it would render the cleansing of it very difficult, especially as it would serve, as it were, as a harbour for dirt, and that the expense, in that case, would not be repaid by means of any increase or superiority of wool; neither is it thought that any advantage would be derived to the wool by a slight greasing after clipping, though it might be beneficial to the sheep. The maxim acted upon here, is, that GOOD FOOD makes GOOD WOOL; and that the better the feed, the better and more healthy become both the carcase and the wool. It is ad-

mitted, however, that in order to cure cutaneous diseases and those arising from the effects of the fly, it is necessary to have recourse to unguents soon after clipping; but whilst the full fleece is on the back of the animal, it is thought that clearing away the wool from the parts affected, is sufficient to prevent the further spread of disease. It is, nevertheless, not denied, that sheep smeared with unctuous preparations, throw off snow and rain sooner than those which are ungreased; but sheltering them in unfavourable weather is thought to be a better practice, an equal temperature and a regular supply of good food being considered the most likely means to secure a good fleece.

With respect to the washing of sheep, that operation is performed in this county either in a running stream, or in water fetched for the purpose, and the wool is considered to be much benefited and rendered more saleable by it.

It is not believed here, that the housing or cotting of sheep would be beneficial, but, on the contrary, that the confinement would be injurious; but, it is acknowledged, as just before mentioned, that shelter would be highly advantageous, and be productive of a saving of expense, as the sheep would be less liable to disease.

The opinion entertained in Dorsetshire is,

that the removal of sheep to a luxuriant pasture does not tend to render the wool coarser, but, on the contrary, that such a pasture produces the best wool. This, however, must be understood, with the limitation before specified, namely, that such pastures are really good ones, and not rank. The change from a poorer soil to a richer pasture, is supposed to have an effect upon some breeds more rapidly than others; but the opinion entertained by the farmers here, is, that the most healthy sheep feel and display the influence of such a change the soonest, without much regard to breed: neither are they favourably disposed towards the Merinos, which they consider to be very tender, requiring a fine climate to fatten, being worth nothing, (as to carcass,) when they are fat, and that their wool, the only valuable part of them, does not repay the expense of growing it.

Another opinion entertained here, is, that the fleece is not increased in bulk after a mild winter, and that dry cold does not injure sheep, but that it is rain and sleet which deteriorate the animal and check the growth of the wool, and that the short and sound food produced in dry weather, is more nutritive for the sheep than all the washy produce, (though more abundant in quantity,) of a mild and wet

season. It is, however, admitted, as an indisputable fact, that a deficiency of food is very injurious to the growth of wool. Shelter in bad weather, or when very hot, being considered very advantageous, it is thought that open sheds would be highly desirable on sheep farms.*

The greater proportion of the sheep farms in this county, consist of arable land. The having winter or summer pasture depends upon the various circumstances of the respective farms. Where the sheep are put out to keep during the winter, an agreement is in some cases made for a certain rent per acre, and in others for a specified charge per head during a given time. The flocks also, according to circumstances, are sometimes divided and classed, but frequently allowed to run altogether. They consist of both ewe and wedder flocks. The ewes have their first lamb at about two years of age, when they are called two tooths.

It is believed here, that the wool produced in this county may undoubtedly be rendered of finer quality, by means of the introduction of

* We should therefore propose sheds formed in the shape of a cross, thus +, open on one side and closed on the other, that shelter might be found by the sheep from whatever quarter the storm or wind might blow, or from the too great heat of the sun.

superior breeds: this improvement has, as already stated, commenced, and is making a rapid progress, the wool having evidently greatly improved, in consequence of this change of system. On some of the farms, the sheep, with reference solely to the carcass, are chiefly relied upon for returns and for profit, but on others the great dependence is on the wool, and the price now attainable, being only 9*d.* per pound, it is of course far too little to make any profitable or even adequate return to the grower. No practice or custom has been introduced in Dorset, as in some other districts, of averaging the rent of land per sheep, but the proportion of the rent which ought to be defrayed out of the produce of the wool, is estimated at one-fourth.

What are here considered by the sheep farmers as remunerating prices, are, for ewes 25*s.*, hogs 28*s.*, tegs 21*s.*, and wool 1*s.* 2*d.* per pound; the prices of lambs vary so much according to their size, that no average has been fixed. It follows, of course, that, owing to the depressed price of wool, the value of sheep farms has of late years much decreased. The shepherds in this county are, for the greater part, paid in money.

Sheep farms, in consequence of the state of the markets, are now considered here as bad speculations, and there can be no doubt of the

utter inadequacy of the low prices, at which, at present, and for some time past, the farmers have been obliged to sell, to make any sufficient return for the capital invested and employed in such concerns, or for the risk and anxiety attendant upon them.

DUMFRIESSHIRE.

The natural herbage of the greatest part of the sheep pastures in Dumfriesshire, consists of the grasses generally grown in Britain, such as common pasture and meadow grass, Poa trivialis, fescue grass, Festuca Ovina, bent or flying bent, Agrostis spica venti, stool bent, Scirpus Cæspitosus, several of the species Aira, Dactylis, Phleum, and of the Juncus, &c. common heath, Erica vulgaris, different kinds of Trifolium or clover, red, white, and yellow, and of common daisy, Bellis perrenne. There are also a great number and variety of other plants scattered over the pastures in this county, but which it is unnecessary to particularize, those named above being the herbage on which the sheep commonly feed.

It is not a general practice to divide the sheep farms in Dumfriesshire into winter and summer pasture: it is, however, usual, when wedder flocks are reared, to place this kind of stock upon that range of pasture which lies the highest, and is most exposed; sometimes the lowest, and, consequently, the richest part of the pasture, is reserved for the hogs (lambs) through

the winter; the ewes, or breeding stock, are also kept on those parts of the sheep walks which are less elevated or exposed than the situations allotted to the wedders.

The regular custom here is, to enter upon sheep farms at Whitsuntide, and to quit them at the same term. Farms in this county are held upon leases of from six to nine, twelve, and nineteen years. Leases granted for a longer period than nineteen years, (since some very important decisions given in the Court of Session, which were carried by appeal to the House of Lords,) are not now considered valid or binding upon the heirs or successors of the lessor. It is not uncommon here, under particular circumstances, to let farms from year to year, but it is not the usual practice. The rents in general under the covenants contained in the leases are paid half yearly; the first half year commencing at Martinmas next following the term of Whitsuntide, at which the tenancy commences.

The highways in this county were formerly kept in repair by means of the performance of statute labour; that is to say, the district or parish was bound to perform a certain number of days' labour, by turning out for that purpose the heads of the families of farmers, or tradesmen, or other able bodied men, as the case required, who were obliged to work

on the roads, or find substitutes to do the work for them. Since, however, the establishment of turnpikes, statute labour has been abolished, the money arising from the tolls being applied in its stead, and the amount of the deficiency being raised by an assessment, chiefly on the proprietors of the land and their tenants; or in towns, on merchants, and others considered competent to pay their respective quotas. For the repair of bridges an assessment is made upon the county at large.

The buildings on the farms are almost universally erected at the expense of the proprietor, but sometimes by the tenant; who, in that case, has an allowance of timber, slate, and lime, from the landlord, the tradesmen employed being paid by the tenant. These are to be kept up, and left in a proper state of repair, by the tenant, and are invariably considered as the property of the landlord.

There is no custom here which binds the landlord to take the stock upon a farm at the expiration of a lease. He may, however, secure to himself a right to it, by means of a deed, or writ, of hypothecation, which, in case the tenant falls into an arrear of rent, or becomes a bankrupt, gives him a preference over other creditors, provided such right is secured during the accruing of the current year's rent; other-

wise, the landlord, with regard to his rent, is only placed on the same footing with other creditors. On the removal of a tenant from a farm, the stock is generally sold to his successor at a price mutually agreed upon by the parties; but if not, it is sold by public auction. In some cases, however, the landlord binds his tenant to sell his stock and off-going crop to the new tenant, at a price to be fixed by arbitrators, mutually chosen by the two parties; but it is by no means a general practice to bind either the incoming or out-going tenant in this manner: the only usual obligation upon the former, is, that the outgoer being under covenant to leave the premises in proper habitable repair, the incomer must either accept of them as such, or agree with the landlord at the time, about such additions, alterations, or repairs, as he may consider needful.

A proportion of arable land, more or less, is in general attached to the sheep farms, though in some instances there is none whatever; when there is, it is let under very guarded restrictions with respect to the course of cropping, a certain part of it being stipulated to be in fallow, or rather green crop, (naked fallow being scarcely known in the pastoral districts of this county,) another portion in hay, or sown grasses, and a proportion under white crops, two white

crops not, however, being allowed to be taken in succession; and in this state or course of cropping, he is bound to leave it on his removal. The incoming tenant has a right to sow grass seeds along with the white crop sown by the outgoer, on the ground on which a green crop was raised the preceding year; in which case the outgoer is bound to have such grass seeds properly harrowed and covered in at his own expense. The straw is in general, according to the terms of the lease, to be consumed on the farm; the remaining dung not used by the outgoing tenant, is usually taken by his successor at a valuation. In almost every case, (that is to say, where there is no express stipulation to the contrary,) the outgoing tenant may dispose of his crop by public auction, or in any other manner that he chooses.

In the lower or more sheltered pastures throughout Dumfriesshire, the flocks are commonly a ewe, or what is called a breeding stock; but in the more elevated pastures, or in situations exposed to severe winter storms of snow, a wedder stock is partly reared; in general, however, wedder flocks are now only pastured in rugged, wet, or stormy situations.

The present Cheviot breed of sheep, now almost universally established in Dumfriesshire, is, taking every circumstance into conside-

ration, deemed the most useful and profitable kind of stock that could be introduced. There is no doubt, that a finer and more valuable wool might be grown, by introducing the Spanish Merino and South Down flocks; but none of them are thought to be so well suited to the pastures and climate of this county as the Cheviots. It is not denied, that by means of a judicious cross with these finer woolled sheep, some improvement might be made in the fleece, but it is feared that the Cheviot breed would thereby be deteriorated; and under the circumstances of the present extreme depression in price, there is no prospect of any remunerating advantage to the sheep farmer, in return for trying such an experiment.

Sheep form the most valuable proportion of the live stock in Dumfriesshire, and, taken together with their wool, may be said to constitute the general staple, or preponderating produce of the county, or at least, of its eastern and northern districts. In all the pastoral parts of the county, a certain number of cattle are reared, of what are denominated the Galloway or polled breed; but these, though valuable, form but a small proportion, in comparison with the value of the sheep that are bred.

The rent of land appropriated to the rearing and pasturing of sheep, per acre, or per head, has, in the course of between forty and fifty years past, very much varied: an acre being considered the general average proportion of hill pasture allowed for grazing one sheep; it ought however to be added, that a large proportion of the hill pastures were formerly occupied by the black-faced, or short sheep of the northern counties of Scotland: subsequent to that period, the rents of the sheep pasture farms continued gradually advancing till the conclusion of the late war, soon after which they began to retrograde; and in consequence of the excessively low price of wool of late years, are still declining. During the late war, from 6*s.* to 8*s.* per acre, and even higher rates, have been given as rent for sheep farms; at present the average rate of rent per acre, or sheep, at least on leases lately granted, is from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* per sheep, or, on a general average, 5*s.*; but the rent may, in some instances, be considerably higher per sheep, (if so reckoned), where there is a greater proportion of arable land attached to the farm, which consequently raises the valued rent per sheep.

Taking the rents and prices of the year 1828, the following is estimated to be the re-

turns and remuneration to the sheep farmer, from a stock of 1,000 sheep;—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Rent of a farm that will keep 1,000 sheep, at 5*s.* each, including the usual arable land				250	0	0
Sale of 200 top or best wedder lambs, at 8*s.* 10*d.*	88	6	8			
——— 140 inferior ditto, at 6*s.*	42	0	0			
——— 160 mid ewe ditto, at 7*s.*	56	0	0			
——— 20 mixed small ditto, at 4*s.*.....	4	0	0			
——— 160 draft ewes, at 14*s.*..	112	0	0			
——— 10 inferior ditto, at 10*s.*	5	0	0			
——— 10 fat ditto to butcher, at 20*s.*	10	0	0			
——— 940 fleeces of wool, deducting 60, being the shepherd's share, and those dead; which, allowing 6 fleeces to the stone, give 156 stone, at 8*s.* 6*d.*	66	6	0			
				383	12	8
Balance....				133	12	8
From this balance must be deducted servants wages, poor rates, taxes, and other imposts, and sundry items besides, amounting to.....	52	0	0			
Interest upon, and farm risk of £1,000., sunk in the purchase of stock, at 5 per Cent. per Annum	50	0	0			
				102	0	0
Remains for household expenses, profit, &c.				31	12	8

This is considered in Dumfriesshire as an approximation to what a farmer must expect to be the state of his affairs, according to the present prices of farm produce, and the rent which he pays.

A shepherd in Dumfriesshire is usually paid by allowing him grass for a certain number of sheep to be furnished by himself, and grazed along with the flock of his master of which he has the charge, and this in proportion to the extent of that charge, and the amount of sheep committed to his care. The number of sheep under the management of one shepherd, varies according to difference of situation and of circumstances, from 30 to 40, and even 50 score of sheep; that is to say, from 600 to 1,000: the medium may be considered as the average, but it depends, in a great measure, upon circumstances, as well as upon the caprice of the proprietor of the flock, and the rate of wages of course varies accordingly. The shepherds wages are fixed, in this county, by what is provincially termed a *soum* or 10 sheep; being allowed from three to 5 soums, that is from 30 to 50 sheep's grass. Very frequently, where a shepherd has a family, and consequently a cottage and a small garden, on some suitable part of the farm, he possesses, or is allowed to keep a cow, and to have hay for his cow

upon the farm, to be made or *won* by himself or his family, which is considered equivalent to a soum or 10 sheep. In this case, he generally provides his own food and that of his family, or is allowed by his master a certain proportion of oatmeal, about a stone of 17½ pounds per week. In other instances, a shepherd is victualled in his master's house, along with the other farm servants; but even then, it is usual to allow him the sheep wages, that is to say, a certain number of sheep as above, to be grazed along with his master's flock.

With reference to the smearing of sheep, it was, till within a few years past, the universal practice in this county to have all the flocks smeared with an unguent, consisting of certain proportions of tar and butter, or of the former ingredient; and instead of butter, either oil, tallow, or palm grease. The tar in general use was that of New England, or Virginia; but in elevated, cold, and bleak situations, Swedish or Norwegian tar was considered more suitable. The expense of this mixture, or ointment, may be estimated at from 3*d.* to 4*d.* per sheep, which includes the cost of the ingredients, and the payment for the labour of applying the ointment, in which process the shepherd always takes a part. One man is ex-

pected to smear, or salve, from 20 to 30 sheep per day.

The depression in the price of wool is, of course, severely felt in Dumfriesshire, as well as in other districts: at one period the produce of the wool grown upon a flock of sheep was equal, or perhaps more than equal, to the value of the disposable produce of lambs upon the same farm; at present, the proportion of rent paid from the wool, is not equal to half, or, perhaps, to one-third, of the value of the disposable produce of lambs. It necessarily follows, that the value of the land is decreased in proportion to the diminution in the price of wool. Should that price continue at its present low rate, or be still further reduced, it is also certain, that the price, or value of the stock, must be likewise proportionably diminished; or, rather in a greater ratio, the value or the price of sheep, having been considerably augmented by the rise in the price of wool, independently of any consideration arising out of the price of meat: although, therefore, the latter should rise, still the value of stock must be lowered; and rents must either rise or fall, according to the prices of both combined, or in other words, be proportioned to the value of the stock; and as the price of wool has greatly

fallen, whilst that of meat has continued nearly stationary, it is impossible that the rents can continue to be paid without diminution.

The sheep in this county are, in general, kept at home during the winter: in a few instances, a proportion of the weakest, or smallest of the lambs, or hogs, as they are called, after they have been smeared, are taken off the farms lying in elevated, stormy, and exposed situations, and pastured on lower grounds during the winter, at a rate of from 3*s*. to 4*s*. per head. In other cases, the rams, and some portions of the stock, in inferior condition, are put upon turnips, where any are raised on the arable parts of sheep farms, or sent to feed on turnips on the arable farms in the lower districts of this or the adjoining counties, at a certain rate per acre, or per head, by the week, or by the month; these rates, or prices, greatly depend as to the amount, upon there being a plentiful or a scarce turnip crop.

The following statement has been given in this county, of the prices for the last ten years, of wedders, best wedder lambs, draft ewes, and smeared or laid wool; it being understood, that under the head wedders, aged or full grown wedders are the kind of stock alluded to;—

Years.	Wedders.			Best Lambs.			Draft Ewes.			Wool.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1819	1	16	0	0	12	3	1	5	0	1	0	0
1820	1	14	0	0	11	6	1	1	4	0	19	0
1821	1	1	0	0	6	9	0	12	6	0	16	0
1822	1	1	0	0	6	9	0	11	0	0	12	0
1823	1	2	0	0	7	0	0	11	3	0	9	10
1824	1	0	0	0	6	6	0	13	6	0	12	6
1825	1	13	0	0	11	0	1	2	0	1	0	0
1826	1	0	0	0	6	6	0	11	6	0	10	0
1827	1	3	0	0	7	6	0	16	0	0	11	0
1828	1	2	0	0	8	10	0	14	0	0	8	6
General average	1	5	2½	0	8	5½	0	15	9¾	0	14	0

These may be considered as very nearly the average prices in this county, of the foregoing articles of farm produce, for the ten years preceding the present. In no instance is the decrease in price more remarkable, than with regard to wool, the price of which per stone, of 24 pounds averdupoise, was, in 1819, £1., and in 1828 only 8*s.* 6*d.*, the diminution in the last mentioned year being thus, no less than 11*s.* 6*d.* per stone. Had the prices for the last twenty years been given instead of ten, there would have appeared a still greater decrease in price, wool having been sold within that period at from 30*s.* to 33*s.* per stone; and taking the average of a few years of it, at 31*s.* 6*d.* Even in 1818, the year preceding the commencement of the fore-

going statement, the price of good Cheviot wool was £1. 10*s.* per stone: thus the difference of price between the years 1818 and 1828, is no less than £1. 1*s.* 6*d.* per stone. The stone of 24 pounds averdupoise has already been mentioned, and either by that, or the pound, the wool is universally sold in Dumfriesshire.

It was supposed by the late Dr. James Anderson, of Aberdeen, who wrote a number of papers upon this subject, that the pile of the fleece throughout, from the root to the top, might be produced equally fine, by maintaining the animal in an equal habit of body through the whole season, by heavy stocking the pastures in summer, and by good keeping during winter; but the experience of the sheep farmers and shepherds in this district tends decidedly to prove, that this theory was carried too far, and that the qualities of the fleece mainly depend upon the circumstances of climate, food, and soil, subject of course to a great variety of modifications, with reference to the treatment and management of sheep.

There is a hardness of feel in the fleece of the black-faced, or short sheep, that is to say, the native horned, or aboriginal flocks reared in the north of Scotland, but which is supposed to be a portion, as it were, of their natural constitution, or at least to be very little owing to the

effect of the temperature of climate. It is well known that these causes operate, to convert a fine wooled fleece on the body of a sheep, when removed to a hot climate under or near the Equator, into a coarse, hairy, matted substance; but the almost equal fineness of the Spanish and Shetland wool, in parts of the latter sheep, the difference of the latitude under which each is produced being about ten degrees, tends to prove that there are other causes operating in this respect, which are not yet sufficiently ascertained. It is also equally notorious, that certain mountainous and pasture districts produce wool of the most coarse and worst qualities, in latitudes equally differing from those where the fine wools are obtained.

An allusion has already been made to the smearing of sheep: in some parts of the south of Scotland, rosin, or pitch, has been used instead of tar, to mix with butter, oil, &c. for the purpose of smearing or salving sheep, with the view of preventing the fleece from acquiring that dark or dingy tinge, which arises from the use of the tar mixture, and which, by no process hitherto discovered, can be entirely removed, so as to render the wool equally white, as that which is unsmeared. The result of this experiment has not given complete satisfaction, the application having been found to take away

that silky softness which is so much prized in the fine fleeces; whilst it has not promoted, but has rather prevented, the formation of that natural animal unguent or substance, denominated yolk, (but in Scotland termed *eke*), which, it is supposed, tends to nourish and preserve the wool, and improve the quality of the fleece. It is a practice in some of the southern counties of Scotland, to apply oil to the sheep, as an unguent, after dividing or shedding the wool, as in smearing; but if it is not mixed with some other strong and potent ingredients, it does not seem to have much effect in preventing the itch, or other cutaneous diseases to which sheep are liable. The application of grease would, it is believed, have some effect in preventing the fly from attacking the heads of sheep in warm weather; but the application would be required to be frequently repeated. With regard to the maggots produced by the flies, some more powerful mixture, as mentioned above, would be requisite to destroy them. Respecting the practice of salving or smearing sheep, there are various opinions; but it has been ascertained, that at least one good effect arises from it, as when the operation has been properly performed, and with sufficient materials, it imparts to the fleece the quality of resisting rain or melted snow, preventing

the moisture from penetrating to the skin, and thereby rendering the animal very uncomfortable, which is one of the properties of tar, rosin, and perhaps of wax, as of other productions: they, at any rate, assist in retaining the natural yolk of the fleece, in producing the effect just mentioned.

With regard to the washing of sheep, the practice of performing it in rivers and ponds is here thought to be the best.

The practice of housing sheep is not known among the mountain flocks of this county. Stalls of different forms are, however, frequently constructed upon the most improved sheep farms here, for the protection of the animals in snow storms, and severe rainy weather during the winter; but housing sheep is never resorted to, except for a few of the weakest of the lambs with their dams, which are brought home and put into the house used for smearing the sheep, or other office houses about the dwelling, during the lambing season. It is not denied, that open sheds might be found very beneficial, for the purpose of rendering the flocks more comfortable and secure in cold rainy weather, or during a severe snow storm in winter; but as these, to render them efficient, must be constructed upon a large scale, or be very numerous, it is doubted, whether any advantage

to be derived from them, could, in most cases, repay the expense of their erection. In this district, and through the whole north of Scotland, if the flocks are not shorn at too early or too late a period, they do not in general suffer much from the effects of heat, and it is therefore thought that any protection from the sun is unnecessary.

It has already been observed, that the quality of the fleece is materially affected by the full supply or deficiency of food; and it has been established here, as the result of long experience and observation, that the growth of the fleece, or of the pile or fibre of the fleece, is much stronger and equable during a mild and open winter, when the flocks enjoy a full and regular supply of nutritious vegetable food, than when this property of their food has been much exhausted by long and severe frosts during the winter months, or when they have been, in a great measure, deprived of their usual sustenance through its being buried under the snow, and consequently only to be obtained by means of much labour and difficulty, or when fed upon hay; when these circumstances have occurred, the animal has been found to be much reduced in habit of body, and the wool produced during this period to be weaker in the pile, though, at the same time, it may feel softer and more silky

to the touch. Some breeds of sheep are probably more liable than others to be affected by the severity of the weather or the season; thus, for instance, the black-faced sheep are constitutionally better enabled to bear the inclemency of a severe winter, than the Cheviot or any fine woolled breed of sheep, with the exception of the diminutive race in Shetland. As to the effect which might be produced by the circumstances already mentioned, upon the fine woolled Spanish or Merino breeds; whether they can longer resist a change in the fleece, or have an equal aptitude to fatten with the native breeds, there has not been sufficient experience in this part of Scotland to warrant the drawing of any conclusion. With regard, however, to the influence of heat, it is a well known fact, that a fine woolled sheep, when transported to a very warm climate, to our West India Islands, for instance, invariably degenerates in its fleece, until the latter becomes nothing but coarse hair, like the coat of the common goat. Whether a similar effect would be produced, upon a coarse woolled black-faced sheep, from the north of Scotland, placed under the like circumstances, remains to be ascertained.

The effect of food upon the production of wool has been in some respects alluded to; it has been found, that a scarcity of winter or of sum-

mer food affects the staple of the wool, and tends to render it jointed. This becomes evident to any person who carefully inspects the staple of the fleece, or the wool upon the skin of a sheep, after it has experienced all the extreme varieties of a season, producing a scarcity of food: the effect is still more perceptible in the fleece of a sheep which has been allowed to remain upon the animal for *two seasons*, a circumstance that sometimes, though very rarely, occurs. In such cases, the staple, or the growth of the pile or fibre of the fleece is observed, when minutely examined, to vary in thickness at the different periods of its growth.

HAMPSHIRE.

The herbage, on the uplands, in this county, consists, in general, of the lighter grasses, such as Festuca, crested dog's tail, Alopecurus, &c.; and, on the heavy lands, of stronger grasses, consisting of Anthoxanthum, &c. Devon rye grass, for laying down grass lands, is now very prevalent. Upon chalky soils, great quantities of Saintfoin are cultivated. It has been found by experience, that lands laid down for permanent grass, will not retain, except for a few years, any grasses that are not natural to the county; it is therefore considered, by the most skilful farmers and graziers, that selecting the seeds of the best grasses indigenous to the district, is the best method of ensuring a good pasture, and thus the Devon rye has become more prevalent than any other species.

The whitest fleeces in Hampshire are invariably produced upon a white soil, but with more certainty upon a white clay or marl, than upon chalk, it having been constantly observed, that upon such a soil they are finer than upon any other, and also much softer to the touch; though it is equally true, that chalky soils

produce a fine and white wool. Deep black, hungry, and bad land, produces a coarse and harsh wool. Chalky ground, and fine hazle soils, with a substratum of chalk, produce a wool, which always sells well, it being very suitable for the purposes of the manufacturer, in consequence of its furnishing a cloth of softer and better quality. Sheep, in good condition as to food and health, are not, generally speaking, found wanting in respect of a fine growth of wool, but if fed upon a poor *black* land, the small particles of surface soil are drifted throughout the wool, which dry up or absorb that necessary nourishment, the yolk; the effect is easily discovered by the feel of wool so grown.

It is found here, as in other districts, that the effect of the sun and temperature upon newly shorn sheep, produces a harshness of feel to the touch; but the wool becomes soft in proportion to its length, and, perhaps, that which is in the first instance hardest, has afterwards the most vigorous growth.

With regard to smearing or greasing sheep, the prevalent opinion in this county is, that unguents are of no service to the future growth of wool; but, on the contrary, that the materials of which they are composed, are thrown up as the fleece increases, and become, as it were, so much filth which requires to be washed away:

the natural *perspiration* of a healthy sheep, is here supposed to be the best guarantee for the perfection of the wool. This opinion, as to the inutility of unguents, is even extended to the time of clipping, or shearing, it being thought, that at the season of the year when the clipping takes place, exposure to the air is a comfort to the sheep; whilst nature provides a warmth of wool sufficient for the winter: it is also believed, that in the latter season the wet and mud would adhere to the greased fleece, much more than to one not greased.

A good pasture is believed in Hampshire, to be every thing with regard to the growth and improvement of both carcass and fleece; and though it is in some degree admitted, that the application of an unguent might have a tendency to prevent cutaneous diseases, and the effects arising from the fly, if used immediately after shearing; yet it is the prevalent opinion that these mischiefs are chiefly engendered under the cover of a long coat of wool, and that they may in general be remedied or removed after shearing, without having recourse to these applications. In a similar spirit, whilst it is agreed, that sheep, greased with an unguent, might throw off snow or rain, sooner than those which had not been greased, yet it is objected, that the filth and dust would, in consequence

of the application of the unguent, adhere to the fleece, in a proportion equivalent, (if such a term may so be used,) to the throwing off of rain or snow. An equality of temperature, and a sufficiency of good feed, are here considered, perhaps it may be said almost exclusively, the most likely methods to ensure a good fleece.

With regard to the washing of sheep, it is not usual, in Hampshire, to perform that operation in ponds, but generally in rivers, where the filth is carried away by the stream: the washed wool is found to sell the best. The housing or cotting of sheep is not considered here to be of that use or importance which it is thought in some other districts, the sheep farmers believing a free and fine air to be essential to the health of the animal, and being fearful of the consequences in this respect of the confinement of housing, whilst they are also of opinion, that the expense which must in such case be unavoidably incurred, would not be repaid by any additional returns or profit.

It is not thought here, that the removal of sheep to a luxuriant pasture, has any effect in producing a coarser wool; but this must, of course, be understood as not applying to a rank marshy pasture. The Merino and Spanish sheep are supposed, in this district, to be much longer than any other breed in benefiting

by a change; those sheep which are in the most thriving state, and the most ready to fatten, are believed to feel the effects of a change the quickest, whether it is from a worse to a better pasture, or the contrary. A mild winter is not believed, by the Hampshire sheep farmers, to have any effect in increasing the weight of the fleece at the ensuing clip, or that the latter is diminished through the operation of a severe one, or that in either case the wool is coarser; it is only a wet season that is considered to injure the quality of the wool. This, however, must be taken with the qualification or limitation, that a dearth of either winter or summer food is always injurious both to the carcass and the wool.

Open sheds, where sheep might resort for shelter from the inclemency of the weather, or too great heat, it is thought here would be very desirable on sheep farms, especially those in exposed situations.

The sheep farms in Hampshire, generally, consist of one-third pasture land, and two-thirds arable. Their having winter or summer pasture depends upon a variety of circumstances: if the sheep are put out to feed during the winter, the charge is from 5*s*. to 7*s*. per head, for six months' keep. There is no rule of management with regard to the classing of

the sheep, &c., or their being allowed to run altogether, it depending entirely upon the caprice of the proprietor of the animal. The flocks consist of both ewe and wedder. The ewes have their first lamb at two years and a half old.

Sheep and wool form a very considerable proportion of the dependence of the farmer in this county, the latter alone being relied upon for the payment of one-fourth or upwards of the rent: sometimes its produce defrays half the rent. No calculation has ever been made here as to the average of the rent of land per sheep.

What are here considered remunerating prices, are, for ewes, 30*s.*; for hogs or tegs, 25*s.*; for lambs, 20*s.*; and for wool, 42*s.* per tod. In consequence of the present depressed price of wool, land is considered here to have decreased in value one-eighth. The shepherds, in Hampshire, are generally paid in money.

The average prices, for the last ten years, have been, for ewes, 28*s.*; for two tooth wedders, 24*s.*; for lambs, 18*s.*; and for wool, nearly 1*s.* 2*d.* per pound; but within the last three or four years the actual price of wool has very greatly decreased, as will be seen by the following statement of prices; viz.—1806, 58*s.* per tod·

1807, 57*s.*; 1808, 54*s.*; 1809, 79*s.* 4*d.*; 1810, 56*s.*; 1811, 50*s.*; 1812, 46*s.* 8*d.*; 1813, 65*s.* 4*d.*; 1814, 70*s.*; 1815, 48*s.*; 1816, 45*s.*; 1817, 63*s.*; 1818 and 1819, 46*s.* 8*d.*; 1820, 37*s.* 9*d.*; 1821, 35*s.*; 1822 and 1823, 34*s.*; 1824, 34*s.*; 1825, 1*s.* 2*d.* per pound, or 32*s.* 8*d.* per tod; 1826, 1*s.* per pound, or 28*s.* per tod; 1827, 10*d.* per pound, or 23*s.* 4*d.* per tod; 1828, SEVENPENCE PER POUND, or 16*s.* 4*d.* per tod!!! And, as our friend emphatically expresses himself for 1829, too bad to be put to paper.

INVERNESSSHIRE.

The herbage of this county is in general coarse, and better adapted for summer than for winter pasture, as on the approach of the latter season it becomes rank and unpalatable, and is at that period unfit pasture for either sheep or cattle.

The farms are generally held under leases for terms of from seven to nineteen years; they are always entered upon at Whit-Sunday, old style. The rents are generally paid yearly, at Martinmas, (the 11th of November,) the year commencing at the expiration of the first half-year after entry; in some instances they are paid half yearly, or at two terms, namely, Whit-Sunday and Martinmas.

The highways in Invernesshire are of two descriptions, parliamentary and district; the former are kept in repair, partly by means of parliamentary grants, and partly by an assessment levied upon the proprietors of land; the latter by an assessment, made under the authority of the County Local Act, and levied in equal proportions upon the landlords and tenants.

The buildings belong to the landlord, but

are kept in repair at the expense of the tenant. In some cases, the landlord is bound to take the stock on a tenant giving up a farm, but in others not, it altogether depends upon the nature of the agreement made between them, there being no custom which is binding either way. Where the landlord is under an obligation to take the stock, he usually makes the incoming tenant take it at a valuation, or rather chuses one who will so take it, and the buildings in the same way. It is considered here decidedly the most advisable plan, that the landlord should take the stock of the outgoing tenant, and this for the reasons before stated: with regard to the buildings, the expediency of making the incoming tenant take them in the manner just alluded to, depends altogether upon circumstances, which may apply to one farm, and not to another.

A very small proportion of arable land is attached to the farms in Invernessshire; it seldom exceeds from 20 to 30 acres. It is not in general held under any restrictions, the climate being so unfavourable, and the ground being incapable of having a regular system of tillage applied to its cultivation. The last crop of straw derived from it belongs, according to the custom of the county, to the outgoing tenant.

On a well-managed sheep farm, the flocks are not allowed to run together, the wedders being kept apart from the ewes, and the young store or hogs being generally kept by themselves. About seven eighths of the sheep stock of Invernessshire, are of the black-faced or Lintin breed, which appear to be better adapted both to the herbage and the climate, than either the Cheviot or any of the cross breeds. The average weight of a fleece of laid wool is about five pounds, that of a fleece of white wool three pounds. The ewes, in general, have their first lamb at two years old.

A material improvement has of late years been effected in the quality of the coarse wool of the black-faced sheep, and there is no doubt that it is capable of being rendered still better; but it is considered inexpedient to attempt any improvement in the wool of the Cheviot breed, on the ground that it would render the animal too delicate, and altogether unfit to endure the rigour of the climate. In this county, sheep and wool form the principal dependence of the farmers, and they are, of course, anxious, according to their own views, to make the most of them.

The rent of land averages from 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per sheep. What is considered here the re-

munerating prices of sheep and wool are as follow: Black-faced wedders from 20*s.* to 21*s.*, ewes of the same breed from 10*s.* to 12*s.*, lambs from 7*s.* to 8*s.*, a stone of laid wool of 24 pounds 9*s.*, and the same quantity of white or unlaid wool 11*s.*

The shepherds are paid in the following manner; by the pasturage of 60 sheep, the keep of two milch cows yearly, and a stone of meal per week.

The fleece is considered in this county of more importance in a pecuniary point of view, than in some other districts, it being estimated that nearly two thirds of the rent ought to be made up from the produce of the wool. The rent of land, however, which has been lately taken upon new leases, has not been reduced in proportion to the fall in the price of wool; had it been decreased in that ratio, there would have been a diminution in the value of land of 30 per cent. Those individuals who have taken farms upon such terms, of course flatter themselves with the hope of a rise in the price of wool; they would otherwise not enter into a contract which must to them be attended by certain loss, it being obvious that if the present prices continue during the terms of their leases, their ruin must be the consequence: the re-

duction that has taken place is from 15 to 20 per cent.

It is a common practice in Invernessshire, to put out the young sheep to winter pasture, the expense of which is about 2*s*. per head.

The average prices of sheep and wool, during the last ten years, as stated by the farmers, have been as follows:

Years.	Wedders, per Score of 21.			Ewes, per ditto.			Lambs, per ditto.			Wool, per Double Stone, White and Laid, 24lb. to the Stone.		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1819	21	0	0	8	10	0	8	10	0	1	1	0
1820	19	10	0	7	0	0	8	10	0	1	0	0
1821	14	0	0	6	10	0	6	0	0	0	18	0
1822	13	0	0	6	0	0	4	0	0	0	13	0
1823	15	0	0	4	0	0	4	5	0	0	10	0
1824	16	0	0	6	10	0	5	0	0	0	12	0
1825	21	0	0	10	0	0	7	0	0	0	18	0
1826	14	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	10	0
1827	16	0	0	10	0	0	6	10	0	0	13	0
1828	15	0	0	9	0	0	6	0	0	0	12	0

The ewe flocks are generally interspersed throughout the county like other descriptions of sheep. The sales and returns from a stock of 1000 breeding ewes, exclusive of the shepherd's packs, are estimated according to present prices, as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
126 Ewes at 9*l.* per score of 21	54	0	0
105 Shot Lambs, at 2*l.* 10*s.* per score of 21	12	10	0
252 Wedder Lambs, at 6*l.* per score of 21	72	0	0
180 Stone single (laid Wool) at 5*s.* per stone	45	0	0
	183	10	0

DEDUCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.			
Smearing	25	0	0			
Two Shepherds meal, &c. ..	10	0	0			
Interest of Money	35	0	0			
				70	0	0
Remains for Rent, and to defray all public burdens				113	10	0

This sum will be considerably short of what is wanted to pay the landlord; and the only other resources of the tenant, to enable him to make up the deficiency, and have something for himself, are, the keep of a few cows, the growth of potatoes for the consumption of his family, and a house to reside in, which yield a very unprofitable return for the time employed, and the capital invested in such concerns. The returns from a wedder stock would present nearly the same result.

LANARKSHIRE.

This county is divided into three Wards, the Upper, Lower, and Middle. The Upper Ward is devoted to sheep pasture, and the sole dependence of the population, in consequence, is upon the annual sales of sheep and wool. Lanarkshire, in general, lies much exposed; but the sheep district is considered to be as bleak as any part of Scotland, its elevation being equal to that of many of the mountainous parts, whilst, from its being a plain country, it affords no shelter. The land, although thus highly situated, is remarkably wet, and stands in need of great and constant attention, it being necessary, very frequently, to cut and clear out surface drains, which are found to be of the greatest service; but even after all this labour is performed, any one unacquainted with the nature of Highland sheep, would think it impossible for them to continue in such a climate in a healthy state.

The herbage consists of heather, grass, and a variety of plants, such as the deer hair, moss crop, sprut, &c. upon which, at certain periods of the year, the sheep entirely subsist; and by

means of these plants making their appearance at the end of winter, and early in the spring, previous to the first shoot of grass, the county consists both of winter and summer pasture.

A small portion of arable land is in general attached to the sheep farms, merely for the convenience of the house; but many of them are held without any. Where arable land is attached, the time of entry upon it, is the 22nd of November; and to the sheep pasture, house, garden, &c. the 26th of May. The farms are held upon leases for nineteen years; the rents are collected half-yearly, the tenant being allowed twelve months' possession, previous to the first half year's rent being demanded. It is customary when a tenant enters upon a farm, to take the stock at a valuation, but there is nothing obligatory, either on the landlord or the tenant, the disposal of the stock being at the option of the out-goer, and it being equally optional with the landlord, or in-comer, to purchase it. Every tenant when he enters, finds the buildings in sufficient repair, and he is bound, when he quits, to leave them in the same condition, he in the intermediate time making all necessary repairs at his own expense. He in like manner keeps the highways in good order, they being divided into ploughgates, or certain distances of road, which are

respectively kept in repair by the tenants of the adjacent farms, throughout the parish.

With the exception of a few lambs that are produced, as fat lambs, for the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets, by crossing the sheep belonging to the country, with a Leicester tup, no other kind of sheep are kept, than the Highland black-faced breed, which are not equalled by the same kind in any other part of Scotland. The flocks are invariably ewe or store flocks, Lanarkshire supplying with lambs many of the more northern parts, which are incapable of producing sufficient for their own stock of wedders, on account of the situation being more adapted for a wedder flock, than a store one.

A variety of diseases are, in a greater or less degree, to be found amongst all flocks; but in this quarter, and indeed throughout Scotland, there is one often fatal, and frequently producing a very severe loss to the sheep farmer, which is known by the name of the sickness, or *braxey;* it chiefly affects the hogs. Lanarkshire being a store county, the ewes that are annually cast out from the flocks, are of course replaced by hogs, a number of lambs being kept every year, to make up the requisite number. The general and most wished for time for the ewe producing her first lamb, is at two years old; but with the view of preventing the sick-

ness amongst the hogs, the flock is allowed to run altogether; and though some benefit is doubtless derived from this practice, yet a great loss is often sustained through it, many of the sheep having lambs at too early an age, (there being great difficulty in keeping the tups from the hogs,) when they are not strong enough to bear up against the climate. The hogs, when running with the old sheep, are, it is admitted, not so large at an early age, but they make as good ewes when cast off; and, in consequence of not having a lamb until they are two years old, they last longer, or, in other words, are kept one year longer than they would have been, had they produced lambs at an earlier age. The sickness cannot be accounted for, nor can it otherwise be described than as a violent inflammation, which speedily terminates in death. Through the hogs running with the old sheep, a food which is injurious to the young ones is taken from them, and at the same time they are kept in exercise by following the old ones.

After a certain period, there is no doubt that a sheep gradually deteriorates in value, and the sooner it can be brought to the point of perfection, the more valuable it of course must be; and although the loss from sickness is much diminished, by keeping the young and old

sheep together; yet, were it possible to feed the young ones better, and thus give them more strength, and by that means obtain an earlier profit from them, a great advantage would be derived; but this, neither the state of the country at present, nor the climate, will admit of. The sickness attacks sheep in all situations, otherwise it might be supposed that the young ones would be destroyed by being placed on low wet land; this, however, is not the case, soils of that nature being those chiefly occupied by the sheep during the winter. In case of a storm, a *pound*, inclosed by a stone wall, (and some of them surrounded by fir trees,) is the only place where the shepherds can find shelter for the sheep; and many persons unacquainted with the nature of this breed of sheep, have frequently wondered that houses or sheds were not erected for their protection from the effects of the weather. With regard to this question, there are various opinions, but the most general one is, that if any shelter or artificial climate was given to the sheep during the night, that the cold would have such an effect upon them in the day time, as to prevent them from travelling in search of their food, which it would frequently be very difficult to supply them with in any other manner; whilst during the winter, in the Highlands of Scotland, the sheep will not bear

to be put out of the way of supplying themselves; this peculiarity being often observed, when they are merely put aside from a tract which they have been accustomed to travel. In the event of a great depth of snow, hay is always provided for the sheep, which is made from coarse grass, cut from the glens; but a quantity sufficient to supply the sheep during the whole of the winter, could not by any possibility be procured. The sheep have to work hard both day and night, for their subsistence, but were they confined the whole of the winter, during the night, in a shed or house, as many people think they might be, food must of necessity be given to them. Where pasture is so abundant that a sheep may fill itself in a few hours, or during the day, the plan of confining sheep may be effective, if properly managed, though much then must depend upon the nature of the species, as some cannot bear confinement, and with regard to all placed in that situation, it is undoubtedly essential that they should have a free circulation of air, and a sufficient supply of food.

In comparing the two kinds of sheep kept in Scotland, namely, the Cheviot, and the black-faced, and which are frequently bred not only in the same counties, but on the same pastures, how is it to be accounted for that the Cheviot

sheep feed quicker on turnips than the black-faced? It is well known, that with regard to feeding, cattle of all descriptions vary much, merely from the circumstance of one being better or finer bred than another; but assuming that both the kinds of sheep just mentioned, are equally well bred, and as nearly assimilated as possible in choosing their food, and their manner of obtaining it, still the Cheviot will fatten in the shortest period. The only reason that can be given for this, is, that the latter is more contented in confinement, whilst the black-faced is more restless, and inclined to roam. But if there is this difference between the two kinds kept in the same county, what must it be between those bred at a distance from each other?

With regard to shelter, it is generally supposed that the black-faced sheep never could bear any kind of covering over them; and it is a question whether, accustomed as they are to the mountains, they cannot find a shelter for themselves better adapted to their nature, than any artificial means could afford them, more especially than any kind of open shed where the snow might drift. The Highland cattle, also, are equally averse to confinement, those bred in the Highlands having their liberty, and either feeding upon grass, or in a yard upon turnips,

will fatten much quicker than the Galloway cattle; but tie them up, and the Galloways are decidedly entitled to the preference, because the latter will bear confinement, and thrive in it; whilst the direct contrary is the case with the Highland breed.

The quality of the wool grown in this county might, undoubtedly, be improved, by paying more attention to the tups that run with the flocks; but the farmers have no encouragement whatever afforded to them, to induce them to improve their fleeces. Were Cheviot sheep reared in this district, a finer wool might be produced; but the loss from the Cheviot sheep has been found, by experience, to be so much greater, than from the black-faced breed, that land stocked with the latter will bear a higher rent, than with the former. Add to this, that the decline in the price of the wool of the black-faced sheep, has been, and is considerably less than that of the Cheviots, and it meets with a readier sale, though the Cheviot wool is the finest. The wool, being thus all produced from the black-faced sheep, bears only one price throughout the county, or at least nearly so, and if a farmer so far improves the quality of his wool, as to render it 2*s*. per stone better, that is, finer, than that of his neighbour, yet he can obtain no more for it than the current price,

nor even that, unless the fleeces which are smeared with tar and butter, are washed in the usual way. Those, indeed, who take the most pains in washing the wool thus smeared, are the worst paid, as they lose in weight, and cannot obtain a higher price. There are, however, some farmers, who use a different composition for the purpose of anointing the sheep, which does not discolour the wool, and who are, in consequence, enabled to sell it at a price, three or four shillings per stone higher than that of the smeared wool in the common method, but which only leaves a trifling profit to the wool grower, after allowing for the difference in weight between tarry and white wool. Heavy expenses are attendant upon the flocks, such as the payments for smearing, herding, and the provision of food for the winter; and when the remunerating prices of 15*s.* for a ewe, 9*s.* for a lamb, and 10*s.* 6*d.* for a stone of wool, of 24 pounds English, tarred and washed, are kept up, one-third of the rent ought to be paid out of the produce of the wool.

Lanarkshire, with reference to its flocks, may almost be called a nursery for the more northern counties, where the black-faced sheep are kept, all the ewe flocks of that breed being kept in this county, and the wedder lambs being sold to the sheep farmers in the mountainous districts.

It being thus, as it were, a store county for the supply of other parts, wool is not so much depended upon, as in many other quarters. The average weight of a fleece is 3½ pounds, and the rent of land averages about 5*s.* 9*d.* per head; but the present prices cannot support the rents, the value of the land having, within the last ten years, decreased nearly 30 per cent. as appears by the following statement of the sales of the produce, given by the farmers themselves:—

Years.	Ewes.		Lambs.		Wool, per Stone of 24lbs.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
1819	18	0	8	0	10	0
1820	12	6	7	6	9	6
1821	10	0	5	6	9	0
1822	8	6	5	6	5	4
1823	8	9	5	8	5	6
1824	10	6	5	10	6	6
1825	13	0	9	0	10	0
1826	11	0	5	8	5	6
1827	12	0	7	3	5	6
1828	12	6	7	6	5	6

With reference to the prices in Scotland, it must of course be borne in mind, that higher rates can generally be obtained in the Southern counties, than in the others, from their proximity to the best markets.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND LINCOLNSHIRE.

SOME notice was taken in our former volume, of the breed of sheep in these two counties, that of Lincolnshire having become merged, as it were, in the Leicestershire breed. The present work being more peculiarly devoted to sheep farming, it becomes necessary to add to the details before given, some particulars more exclusively relating to that subject. Sheep of the old Lincolnshire breed, as observed in the former work, are now rarely to be met with, they being superseded by the crosses from the new Leicesters: by this change, a fleece of finer quality, and of somewhat shorter and lighter wool, has been produced, than was before grown on the Lincolns; and, with the aid of care and good management, the fleece might doubtless be rendered still finer.

Much, however, of course, depends upon the quality of soil, and the quantity and nature of herbage and other food, as well as upon various other circumstances, well known to the practical and intelligent farmer. The fleeces, in general, partake of the colour of the soil upon which the sheep are kept: it is not meant to be asserted,

that chalky soils have any observable tendency to make the wool whiter; but it is well known, that the wool clipped from sheep kept upon moor land or peaty soil, requires more labour to be used in scouring it, than other wool, when it reaches the hands of the manufacturer, and it is thus considered of less value than that grown upon chalky soils, by about 2*s*. per tod, a difference, which at the present period of depression is of some importance.

Whether a soil having a substratum of chalk or lime, has any effect in rendering the pile of the wool of sheep kept upon it, harder than that produced upon a clayey soil, or, in other words, whether when manufactured, it makes a cloth less soft to the feel, though as wool it may appear to be of the same quality, is doubtful, nor can it perhaps be correctly ascertained, but by means of the test of actual experiments carefully made for that purpose, by manufacturers, in order to note the difference, (if there is any) between cloth made from fleeces grown upon chalk or lime, and upon clay soils. It is, however, an opinion entertained by sheep farmers in Lincolnshire, that the wool grown on the high chalky soil of that county, has a drier feel to the touch, than that produced in the marshy lands near the coast; but another question arises here, not perhaps so easily solved, namely,

whether all the difference is not produced by the quality of the herbage?

It is very difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain what proportion of the sheep of these two counties are kept under the turnip system; but it is most probably about one half, or at least, this is as near an approximation to correctness, as can be reached. It is believed, however, that so far as regards the fleece, the sheep kept upon good grass, would produce wool of superior combing quality, to that of those fed according to the system of turnip husbandry. It may be necessary to observe, that it is not to be hence concluded, that as perfect a fleece, according to the breed, cannot be obtained by feeding on turnips and artificial grasses, as on pasture lands; the modes of management appear to make but little difference in the fleece, where the breeds are alike, and the animals kept in similar constitutional strength, and in an equal climate and temperature; which two points seem to have more effect, independent of change of breed, than any other causes, in the variety of our native fleeces; thus, for instance, we find that superior fine wool is produced from Merinos fed on succulent roots, and artificial grasses only; the Welsh sheep, which produce short fine wool, feed entirely on their native mountains: the long wools of Lincolnshire and Leices-

tershire are produced on the marsh lands, and on the wolds, where the turnip system is pursued; whilst in Berwickshire, and Northumberland, the sheep are fed on the turnip lands, &c., and yet the same breeds in Sutherlandshire, and other Northern counties, produce similar qualities of wool, though managed and reared upon perfectly distinct food. It is unnecessary to pursue this part of the subject further; but what has been stated, tends to prove, that the greater the general health of the animal, and the equality of temperature it can be kept in, according to the character of its breed, so will be its perfection of fleece and carcass. It is, of course, well known, that these counties, viz. of Lincoln and Leicester, are celebrated for the great number of sheep which are kept in every part of them. The breed now generally prevalent, is, as already stated, a cross between the Lincoln and Leicester.

Various opinions are entertained, as to the effect of different degrees of temperature upon the skin and wool of sheep; but there is no doubt of one remarkable fact, which decidedly shows a most wise and beneficent provision of Providence; namely, that there is a thickening of the skin of newly shorn sheep, within twenty-four hours after clipping, so as to increase the

thickness to three or four times its previous natural substance, and render it equal, in that respect, to the hide of an ox. The animal is thus better protected, we may presume, from the effects of the weather, when divested of its warm coat, which would otherwise prejudice its health, or perhaps cause its death; but it is observed, that if this thickening does not abate in the course of a day or two, the sheep becomes diseased, and often dies. The roots of the wool are supposed to partake of this increased thickness, and thus is caused, what is known by the term of the rough hand-feel, after shearing. With regard to the effects of temperature, there is, also, no doubt, that the extremes of heat and cold are prejudicial to the growth of wool; the question which it is difficult to solve, is, at what degree of either, there begins to be any sensible difference arising from that cause, and to what extent? Extreme heat, it is well known, nearly prevents the growth of wool; and extreme cold is likewise prejudicial, causing blindness in the sheep, and consequent constitutional disability, and producing the effect, of what is denominated jointing the wool.

It is not considered in this district, that the use of an ointment has any effect in rendering long wool finer; but if laid on in considerable quantities, it will destroy ticks on sheep. It

is also an opinion entertained here, that feeding sheep on good land, that is, rich and luxuriant pasture, would increase the yolk, but that the wool would be rendered heavier and coarser. It is not thought in either of these counties that the practice of washing sheep in tubs would be of any utility, it being the impression that when the sheep have impregnated the water with a sufficient quantity of yolk to make it scour well, that the sheep are better and quicker cleansed from filth when in that state, which occasions them to prefer the pond where there is only a scanty supply of water, than the river; and that the water becomes obnoxious to vegetation; but no experiment has been made in overflowing grass lands, in order to ascertain the effects it might there produce. On the other hand, from the observations made by the Spanish shepherds on their annual return, in the journies of the Mesta, they always find a much more verdant pasture on the spots where they have rested for the purpose of washing their sheep, or fleeces, in consequence of the water used for that purpose having been thrown over the adjacent ground, it is natural to conclude, that if the irrigation of the land with such water was judiciously managed, it might prove highly advantageous, though it may be in this respect like salt, which if improperly used, or laid on

in too large quantities, becomes destructive to vegetation.*

The housing of sheep is not here considered necessary; nor could the expense attending it be repaid out of the returns from the flocks, whilst the carcass would certainly be deteriorated by confinement. With regard to the effect of food upon the fleece, it has been ascertained, that the removal of sheep to a luxuriant pasture, produces heavier wool; such an effect becoming visible in the course of probably a year, or, in some instances, a longer period.

The overstocking of pastures, and thus stinting sheep in their food, has been also found by experience to deteriorate the fleece, it producing what is termed jointed wool; and thus, though the wool may be rendered shorter, it is found to be of a bad quality, in consequence of the sickly or weakened state of the animal. Thus a medium average quantity of food, as well as, generally speaking, a medium temperature, is found to produce the best and finest wool, according to the breed; and it is frequently remarked, that in mild winters a greater weight of wool is grown, though it is also true, that it

* We would recommend the attention of Mr. G. Stephens, of Edinburgh, to this subject, who has just published his valuable practice of Irrigation, and Draining.

may be in a trifling degree coarser; but only in proportion to its greater length and weight.

It is not thought that this district is well calculated for the Merino, South Down, or any other breed of sheep which produces the clothing wool; it being the prevalent opinion, that from the luxuriant nature of the grass, crosses with these breeds would materially deteriorate the quality of the wool, and lessen the weight of the mutton produced here at present; and that no cross between the sheep now bred here, and any of those growing short or clothing wool, would produce wool of a quality fit to be manufactured into cloth. This district may, therefore, be considered to be expressly appropriated, as it were, to the production of the long, or spinning wool; and the only question with the sheep farmers, is, how far the fleece can be improved for that purpose, without deteriorating the quality of the mutton.

It is, however, certain, that a great improvement, both in carcass and in fleece, has been obtained by the cross of the Lincolns with the Leicesters; and so satisfactory has this proved, that it is difficult to find sheep in Lincolnshire which have not been crossed with the Leicesters; though the sheep bred in the wolds, are deeper crossed in this way than those on the marsh lands, which may serve to account for the diffe-

rence in the fleece. The breed of sheep, generally, has been greatly increased since the introduction of the turnip system. The sheep bred in the wolds, and, indeed, in every part of the district where this system is pursued, are reared chiefly on Seeds,(artificial grasses.) There are, however, great numbers bred upon old pastures; but of these pastures, the best are kept for the purpose of fattening sheep. The quality of the wool varies as to fineness or coarseness, according to the extent of the cross between the two breeds already stated. The average length of the staple of the wool, is from eight to nine inches, though some has been grown, the staple of which was considerably longer.

It has been already mentioned, that the washing of sheep in tubs is not here thought advisable or expedient: the usual mode of performing that operation, in this district, is, by digging a pit or pond, near some quarter where a supply of water can be obtained; the sheep are confined within a space of about three or four yards square, which is termed a vat; three or four sheep are thrown in, (that number being successively kept up,) which remain in the vat for a few minutes; two men, provided with short poles, stir the sheep, and then wash the wool; the sheep are then passed on separately to a

man stationed in a tub near the vat, who, for about a minute, washes the wool with his hands; the sheep are then allowed to swim out. It has been found, that a pond where only a small supply of water can be obtained, scours the wool much better than a running stream, or a river.

The stinting sheep in their food, that is to say, there not being enough for them, tends, as before mentioned, as well as disease, to render the wool jointed. The cotted fleece, when taken from the animal, may be rendered fit for sale by placing it before a good fire, so as to make it hot without scorching it; it may then be separated into staple without much difficulty. The usual time for clipping is the month of June; the washing takes place about ten days previous to the shearing: the sheep in this district are never clipped unwashed. It is not believed here, that the use of any ointment or grease after shearing, or during the preceding winter, would have any useful effect in rendering the pile of long wool more equable or finer. The average weight of a fleece from the Lincoln and Leicester cross, is about seven pounds, but if the true Lincoln sheep could now be obtained, it is believed, that the fleece would weigh about two pounds heavier.

The sheep in this district are not kept in

flocks, but in separate pastures, and are classed according to their different sorts, and the respective qualities of the pastures. They have their first lamb when about two years old, in March or April. Of the returns from a sheep farm, the fleece is estimated at about one-fourth, or between a third and a fourth; but this, of course, depends upon the state of the markets at different periods, the prices both of the wool and the carcass greatly varying: at the present rates, the value of the fleece may be taken at 9*d.* per pound, and that of a two years' old sheep at 45*s.*; the two fleeces at seven pounds each, weighing together fourteen pounds, returning 10*s.* 6*d.* But the prices which are here considered as remunerating ones, are, for the wool, weighing, upon the average, from six to seven pounds per fleece, 30*s.* per tod; for two years' old wethers, 52*s.*; for one year old ditto, 35*s.*; for ewes, 27*s.*; and for lambs, 21*s.*

The heavy and ruinous loss sustained in this district, by the fall in the prices of wool, may be easily estimated, when it is known that the produce of Lincolnshire, with the adjoining districts of Holderness and Marshland, is no less than about 500,000 tods per annum.

How far the market price of the wool, during several years, especially the last, has fallen short

of what is considered a fair remunerating one, will be seen by the following statement of prices, for the last fifteen years:

Years.		£.	*s.*	*d.*
1814	.....	2	8	0
1815	.....	2	11	0
1816	.....	1	8	0
1817	.....	2	1	0
1818	.....	2	12	0
1819	.....	1	16	0
1820	.....	1	14	0
1821	.....	1	6	0
1822	.....	1	5	0
1823	.....	1	5	0
1824	.....	1	10	0
1825	.....	1	19	0
1826	.....	1	2	6
1827	.....	1	4	0
1828	.....	1	1	0

There is no peculiar custom of entry or quiting, in this district, as applied to grass lands; they are usually held from year to year.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

The natural herbage of the Cheviot Hills, which form the principal sheep farming district of this county, consists of a variety of plants, known to the sheep farmers and shepherds by the following names, viz. heather, ling, moss, deer hair, stool bent, wire bent, and flying bent, interspersed with a considerable proportion of the finer grasses, several of the lower hills skirting the Cheviots being almost entirely covered with the latter. The herbage affords both winter and summer pasture, but the flocks frequently suffer very severely from snow storms.

The flocks are divided and classed according to the different ages of the sheep: the ewes begin to lamb from the 12th to the 20th of April: the lambs are taken from their dams from the 10th to the 20th of July, and are, during five or six weeks, kept entirely by themselves, generally from home, or upon such high parts of the farm as cannot be occupied with safety during the winter: they are then brought down to their winter quarters, usually consisting of ground, which is altogether kept un-

stocked, during the two or three preceding months: they remain there till the following April or May, when they are again removed to higher, and, generally speaking, stormy pastures, where they continue, according to circumstances, for one or for two years. In the district alluded to, and where the Cheviot sheep alone are kept, the flocks are both ewe and wether. The ewes, in general, have their first lamb when three years old, but in some favourable situations, they bring forth lambs at two years of age. The average weight of a well smeared fleece is about three pounds; when unsmeared, about two pounds and a quarter; if badly smeared, it will weigh heavier.

The sheep farmers in this district consider the remunerating prices, according to the present rents, to be as follows; for three year old wethers, 27*s.*; for two years old ditto, 21*s.*; ewes, 21*s.*; lambs, 8*s.* 6*d.*; smeared wool, 21*s.*; and unsmeared, 26*s.* per stone of twenty-four pounds. The expense of smearing fluctuates according to the price of the materials; it will this year be about 4½*d.* per head. The shepherds are generally paid by allowing them to graze a certain number of sheep and cows of their own, along with their master's stock. The farmers in this district chiefly, or rather, it may be said, entirely depend upon sheep and wool.

No finer woolled sheep than those of the Cheviot breed, could, it is believed, live and thrive upon the Cheviot Hills. An attempt was made, about thirty years ago, to improve the quality of the Cheviot wool, by crossing a considerable number of the best ewes that could be selected from the flocks of the principal sheep farmers, with two South Down Rams, purchased at a high price, of Mr. Ellman, of Glynd, in Sussex. After a trial, however, continued for several years, the experiment totally failed, the produce being found too delicate to endure the climate. About eighteen years since, also, a similar experiment was tried upon a large farm, in the county of Sutherland, which was entirely stocked with Cheviot sheep; a South Down ram was put to a number of the coarsest woolled ewes, and this for five or six years, with, as it was thought at first, the seasons happening to be rather favourable, considerable success; but the winter and spring of 1816 proved fatal to the whole of this mixed blood, not one of them being left alive upon the farm. It is likewise asserted, that the farmers upon the Cheviot Hills, who have produced the coarsest fleeces, from the nature of the climate and other circumstances, have generally been the best paid. Thus, therefore, the practicability of improving the quality of the Cheviot

wool, seems to be so far rendered doubtful, that scarcely any farmer can be found willing to make another experiment for such a purpose.

The rent of land, per sheep, varies considerably, according to the quality and situation of the pastures, and the risk arising from storms, diseases, &c. upon the high, stormy, and inferior land, where few ewes can be advantageously kept; the average is from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*, or thereabouts, whilst upon safer pastures, and those of superior quality, it is from 6*s.* to 8*s.* per head. Upon inferior, and what is called stormy land, where few lambs can be calculated upon, and, consequently, where much must depend upon the wool, it is estimated that the last-mentioned commodity ought to defray two-thirds of the rent, and upon better and safer land, one-half. That the value of land has not fallen in proportion to the decrease in the prices of its produce, is to be accounted for by the competition for farms which still exists, notwithstanding the ruin which has already overwhelmed so many of their occupiers; and this can only be attributed to the reluctance of those who can by any means, or under any circumstances, keep their stock together, to part with it at the present time, when prices are so greatly depressed. Thus, the rents in this county have not, in general, within the last

ten years, been reduced more than from 10 to 15 per cent.; although, by a few liberal landlords, greater abatements have certainly been made to their unfortunate tenants, but such instances are rare. Without, however, a considerable reduction of rents, if the present low price of wool continues, a great proportion of the sheep farms must inevitably revert to their former unproductive and barren state.

Upon the most elevated, and consequently the stormiest parts of the Cheviot Hills, the whole of the stock can seldom be kept at home during all the winter and spring. In those situations where hay can be grown, the shepherds generally endeavour to make as much as they can, for the sustenance of the sheep, during severe storms: but in such high situations a sufficient quantity can scarcely ever be obtained. The expense, therefore, of the removal of a part of the stock for a longer or shorter period, except in unusually mild winters, is to be taken into the account amongst the outgoings of a farm in this district, but the amount of that expense it is not easy to estimate, as it depends almost entirely upon the state of the lower parts of the country, at the time when the removal becomes necessary. If the storm is severe upon the hills only, pasturage for a few weeks may

be readily obtained upon coarse or moor land in the low country, at about 2*d.* per head, weekly; but when there is a general and heavy snow storm over all the country, which frequently happens, then the difficulty and expense of procuring food for the stock are greatly increased: hay or turnips must be purchased wherever they can be procured, and often at very high prices. It is under the pressure of such unfortunate circumstances, that the sheep farmers, upon the Cheviot Hills, have sometimes to sustain an expense and loss of sheep, which, in times like the present, they can seldom retrieve. Upon better and less stormy land, a sufficiency of hay can in general be produced, which prevents the necessity of removing the sheep.

The prices of wethers, ewes, lambs, and wool, produced upon the Cheviot Hills, have varied greatly within the last ten years, according to the quality of the pastures, and the consequent differences in that of the stock. The following statement, however, is considered by the farmers to be a *near* approximation to the average of each year, omitting the prices of lambs, which have not been correctly ascertained:

Years.	Smeared Wool, per Stone, 24 lbs. Eng.						Wethers, 2 Years old.						Ewes, 5 Years old.					
	s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.	
1819	29	0	to	30	0		29	0	to	34	0		26	0	to	28	0	
1820	20	0	to	21	0		19	0	to	21	0		20	0	to	22	0	
1821	20	0	to	21	0		15	0	to	17	0		13	0	to	15	0	
1822	19	0	to	20	0		13	0	to	15	0		12	0	to	13	0	
1823	16	0	to	17	0		16	0	to	18	0		13	0	to	15	0	
1824	17	0	to	18	0		18	0	to	20	0		16	0	to	17	0	
1825	23	0	to	24	0		28	0	to	30	0		25	0	to	26	0	
1826	14	0	to	15	0		13	0	to	15	0		12	0	to	14	0	
1827	12	0	to	14	0		18	0	to	20	0		16	0	to	18	0	
1828	9	6	to	10	6		17	0	to	18	6		16	0	to	18	0	

During the first four or five years of the above period, well smeared wool was worth as much money per stone in the market, as white wool; many of the buyers indeed preferred the smeared at the same price as the other; but, of late, the demand has turned greatly in favour of white wool, which now sells for from 16*s*. to 18*s*., whilst the smeared wool is almost unsaleable at the prices above enumerated.

There is no custom here obliging the landlord to take the stock of his tenant at the expiration of a lease; neither is an incoming tenant bound to take either stock or buildings at a valuation; nor is it considered advisable to introduce such a practice. The buildings are in general kept in repair by the tenant, they having been, at the commencement of a term, put into a sufficient

state of reparation by the landlord to whom they belong. The highways are kept in repair by means of statute labour, which, however, is but imperfectly performed in many parts of this district.

The farms are usually entered upon on the 13th of May, and held upon leases for terms of from seven to nineteen years; several, however, at present, are held only from year to year. The rents are paid half yearly; the first payment is generally demanded in the course of the second half year, or between February and April. To a large proportion of the sheep farms in this district, no arable land whatever is attached: some of them, however, have a little, and around the skirts of the hills, where the soil and climate are more favourable, several have a considerable quantity. Where this is the case, it is generally let under restrictions with regard to crops.

The following is an account of the probable sales and returns, from 400 ewes, 300 gimmers and dinmonts, and 300 hogs, at the present prices of sheep and wool, the stock being taken from land rather favourably situated, with reference to wintering ground and hay. The returns from 1000 sheep taken from different pastures, will of course vary, according to the

difference in the quality of the pasture, and with respect to whether they consist altogether of ewes, or are made up of ewes, wethers, and hogs.

From 1000 sheep, consisting, as above, of 400 ewes, 300 hogs, and 300 gimmers and dinmonts, deduct 50 for the probable deaths, which leaves 950; there is then for sale—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Nine hundred and fifty fleeces, supposing the wool unsmeared, at 1*s.* 9*d.* each				83	2	6
40 lambs, at 7*s.*	14	0	0			
20 ditto small, at 5*s.*	5	0	0			
				19	0	0
120 ewes, five years old, at 17*s.*				102	0	0
10 ditto, small, 2 years ditto, at 12*s.*				6	0	0
120 wethers, 2 years old, at 18*s.* 6*d.*				111	0	0
50 sheep skins, 10 of them, probably, of very little value				2	10	0
				323	12	6

After the above sales, there will remain upon the land, in a favourable season, 400 ewes, 300 gimmers and dinmonts, and 300 hogs, making still a total of 1000; but in a bad season, the sales will be much reduced, if the same number be left upon the ground.

	£. s. d.	£.	s.	d.
Probable amount of rent, tithes, and land tax		300	0	0
Ditto poor, county, & church rates		15	0	0
Summering 300 lambs away from home		15	0	0
Bathing sheep when not smeared		10	0	0
Other contingent expenses ..		10	0	0
Interest on money		50	0	0
		400	0	0
Deduct ..		323	12	6
Probable loss, supposing the sheep to have been unsmeared		76	7	6
If the sheep are smeared, which upon many of the Cheviot farms is necessary, from 5*d.* to 6*d.* per fleece, must be deducted from the price of the wool; if 5*d.* per fleece upon 950 fleeces, the amount subtracted must be		19	15	10
The expense of smearing being double that of bathing, there must be added to the cost ..		10	0	0
Probable loss, therefore, supposing the sheep to have been smeared		106	3	4

The above calculation is made with reference to a tolerably favourable season: a severe winter

or spring, particularly the latter, would not only reduce the sales, but add to the expense, and, consequently, very considerably augment the loss.

It will be at once seen, that the wool growers are at present suffering severely; and were it not that the sheep sell tolerably well, there can be no doubt that their losses would be insupportable. Upon those farms, however, where the principal dependence is upon smeared wool, and there are many such upon the Cheviot borders as well as elsewhere, the present unfortunate state of things cannot long continue, for the same reasons which we have so often, in the foregoing statements, had occasion to give. It is here, as already observed, that there is a considerable competition for vacant farms, which of course prevents the rents from being lowered in that proportion to which they must otherwise of necessity be abated. The difficulties in which many of the present tenants are involved, place them in a situation which is nearly hopeless; but they have been bred and brought up sheep farmers from almost their infancy; they know nothing of any other business, and were they to quit their farms, they must sink into utter poverty and wretchedness. They, therefore, still cling to them in the hope of a more favourable turn in the markets, seeing,

as they do very clearly, when they compare the value of their stock, such as it was ten or twelve years ago, with what it would now produce, if sold, that to quit their farms would be certain ruin, as they would then have no means whatever of recovering themselves; whilst, by going on as long as they can possibly keep their stock together, they cannot well be placed in a worse situation, and there is a chance, little as it is, of better times; at least, it is the only chance they have of retrieving their losses, or even of disposing of their property so as to avoid inevitable ruin. They can, however, only go on for a time; as a regular annual loss, and that, too, a considerable one, must, ere long, by the total sacrifice of their property, reduce them to pauperism.

PERTHSHIRE.

The hills in this county, which run throughout it, from east to west, the range extending from Aberdeenshire into Argyleshire, produce, in general, heather, and the coarser description of grasses, such as bent and moss: towards their bases may be found a mixture of white clover and finer herbage; but the latter description of pasture more commonly grows amongst the eastern, than on any other parts of the Highlands of Perthshire; upon this herbage the cattle are fed during the summer, for the butcher, the land in the East Highlands being considered the most profitable as a sheep district, and always carrying the best stock.

Most of the sheep farmers in Perthshire, are subjected to an additional expense, which renders them liable, as it were, to a double rent, in being necessitated to put their flocks out to keep, during the winter, for which they have to pay not less than from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per head, it being impossible for the sheep to exist at home, on account of the severity of the climate: in some seasons, indeed, there is great

risk, even in removing them to their winter quarters.

The only kind of sheep kept in this county, is the black-faced; nor is it believed, considering the nature of the climate, that any cross would be beneficial. In some instances, in the very high farms, only wedders are kept, which are partly brought from Lanarkshire, as lambs or hogs, and are generally sold off at three years old. On the other hand, on farms having a considerable proportion of low ground, a ewe stock is generally found to pay best; and there, in consequence, the wedder lambs are sold off at weaning time, or wintered, and sold the next spring, as hogs; and the draft ewes are purchased by low country gentlemen and farmers, who put them to Leicester or Cheviot tups, in order to increase the weight of the lambs, either for family consumption, or for market.

Where the sheep walk is extensive, and includes a considerable proportion of high ground, (if a rearing stock is kept,) the wedders are sent, or rather they instinctively travel to the highest, and most remote parts of the pasture, whilst the ewes and lambs occupy the lower range.

The lambs, whilst weaning, are generally put on a portion of the pasture set apart for that purpose, and in some cases kept there during

the remainder of the summer, and the autumn, until they are smeared, and sent to winter quarters; in other instances, the lambs, after a few weeks separation in a similar manner, for the purpose of being weaned, are allowed to resume their former range with the ewes, till they are again separated in October, in order to be smeared.

When the flocks return from their winter quarters, the wedders, (in those cases where they, too, must be removed,) are sent to the highest situations; the young store gradually follow, the ewes keeping the lowest ground, till the lambs are well footed, which may be by the 1st of May; but, (which not frequently happens here,) if the weather proves bad, not till sometimes a week later. The ewes, in general, have their first lamb at two years old; in some instances, however, in order to improve the weight of the stock, they are in this respect kept back till the third year, but this seldom takes place in large grazing concerns.

The time of entry upon grazing farms, is at Whit-Sunday, or the 26th of May; they are generally held for the term of fifteen years, in some cases nineteen: in some parts of the Highlands of Perthshire, and especially in the eastern districts, the rents are paid

annually, a year's rent being payable at the Martinmas after entry; that is to say, at the end of the first half-year, which is called fore-hand rent: in other parts of this county it is customary, on grazing farms, to enter at Whit-Sunday, and pay one half year's rent at the Martinmas following for the whole of the lands occupied. The system, however, is undoubtedly more beneficial for a tenant, than the general practice of entry adopted for arable land in this county, that being, for the in-coming tenant to occupy the arable land at Martinmas, and the house and pasture at Whit-Sunday, he paying rent regularly half-yearly, and discharging the first half-year's rent at Whit-Sunday, (which is likewise fore-hand rent,) for, at that time he has only just taken possession of the house and pasture. It is true, that he occupied the arable land at the Martinmas preceding; but from which he could have had no return by Whit-Sunday. The system of paying at the end of twelve months the year's rent, therefore, though he has double the sum to pay, gives a tenant a better chance of raising his rent, than the general practice of the county, especially on sheep farms; this arises from the different periods of the entries, as from Martinmas to

Whit-Sunday no returns can be received from a sheep pasture, nor from arable land, for the purpose of making up rent; but from Whit-Sunday to Martinmas, the sales of lambs, sheep, and wool, take place, which are all appertaining to sheep farms that can be sold, the arable land severally attached to them only producing a sufficiency for home consumption. A tenant, therefore, is better enabled to pay a year's rent, after having made his annual sales, than half a year before he has received any kind of return; but, though it is no doubt just, that a tenant occupying a farm, particularly a sheep farm, during the summer half year, should pay the year's rent, still it would be in general better, to set the first half year against the last of the same lease, and the last half year, at the termination of a lease, against the first of a fresh one.

In some cases, the landlords are at the expense of steadings, the tenants supplying carriages, and afterwards making the necessary repairs; in others, the buildings are appraised to the tenant at entry, who makes such improvements as may suit his own purposes; and is, at his removal, entitled to a remuneration, or ameliorations, (the term used here,) but not exceeding a fixed amount; should the

buildings, on his quitting, be found in a worse state than at the time of entry, he pays deteriorations; the sum, as with respect to the buildings, when appraised at entry, to be ascertained by arbitrators, mutually chosen. In some instances, the landlord builds, and the tenant pays interest for the money thus laid out, amounting frequently to 7½ per cent. per annum.

The highways are kept in repair by commuting the Statute labour, to which the tenants are liable, a rate of 25*s.* a plough-gate, being considered equivalent to £140. rent; the cotters pay each a rate of 2*s.*; but to put the roads in good repair, and to keep them in that state, would require an additional sum, which the tenantry can ill afford to pay.

Until about fourteen years ago, a sum was allowed by Government for keeping in repair the old military road, from Perth to Fort George, but the Government aid being withdrawn, it becomes a serious burden upon the landholders and tenants of a mountainous district, to maintain an immense length of road, at their private expense, such road being a great thoroughfare from the north to the south of Scotland. It has, therefore, been found necessary of late years, to raise a sum by subscription, amongst the landed proprietors, for the repairs of the

roads, the tolls in so remote a part of the country not being sufficient for that purpose.

There are few instances in the east Highlands of Perthshire, where the landlord is bound to take the stock of his tenant, at the expiration of a lease; but in the west Highlands, the practice is very general. There are, however, cases where the out-going and in-coming tenants make these arrangements between themselves; and should it be found expedient to introduce a stipulation to that effect, between the landlord and the out-going tenant, throughout the county, which will, most probably, be the case, the obligation to take the stock, will be transferred to the in-coming tenant.

The rent of land may, in some measure, depend upon the description of sheep that are kept, ewes and hogs being, perhaps, rather more expensive to winter, than wedders; but, taking into the account the winter keep, the cost, including herding, where the flock have plenty of food, will be very little, if at all, less than 4*s*. per head. According to the present rent of farms, and the amount of the expenses of herding, smearing, (when hogs,) or annual washing with tobacco juice, and soap, &c. &c. it would be requisite, in order to repay the farmer, that wedders, three years old, should sell for 24*s*.; ewes, of equal quality, for 17*s*.; and lambs for

7*s*. 6*d*. per head; and where a mixed stock is kept, if the ground is similarly adapted for rearing, ewes and lambs are considered equal in value, estimated per couple, to wedders, or in other words, a ewe and a lamb are deemed equivalent to a wedder.

There is in general a small proportion of arable land attached to the sheep farms merely for the accommodation of the house, and which is seldom let under any restriction, except, that, in some cases, two crops of oats succeeding each other, are prohibited. Where this is the case to any considerable extent, there must of course be some dependence on cattle and corn with reference to making up the rent; but in the northern part of Perthshire, the farmers principally depend upon sheep and wool, upon which they have always calculated for the payment of half the rent. To enable them, however, to support their present rents, the price of wool ought not to be less than 24*s*. per double stone.

The wool in this county is sold by the double stone, half laid,* and half white, unwashed. It would be difficult to convince the farmers that any ointment could be used so beneficial to the sheep, as the ordinary mixture or preparation

* Greased with tar and butter.

of tar and butter, which cannot be applied, including materials and labour, at a less expense than 6*d.* per head. Some years since, the charge was much more; but both tar and butter have become considerably cheaper. In the years 1818 and 1819, when prices, compared with those of late years, were very high, the best wedders reached what is stated to be a remunerating price; that is to say, a price equivalent to the rent of land since the termination of the war, and ewes, &c. at a similar rate. Indeed, in 1819, draft ewes sold at the price set down for stock ewes; since that period, wedders will not average more than 16*s.* 6*d.*, stock ewes, 13*s.*, and lambs from 5*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* The farmers in Perthshire, however, have in general paid higher prices for hogs and lambs from Lanarkshire, the average of the lambs being probably about 7*s.* 6*d.*; but the average prices both of sheep and wool have been raised by those obtained in 1825.

The value of sheep land has not hitherto decreased in any proportion to the prices of the produce; but there can be no doubt, that, unless much better prices are ere long obtained, the present race of occupiers, having to pay the rents which are now charged to them, must be entirely ruined; and it is evident that thereby a severe loss would be entailed upon the land-

lords. Notwithstanding, however, this unfavourable prospect for the sheep farmers, there are still found speculators (having little to lose) who are ready to step in when a farm is to be let; but where tenants have for any number of years, held or occupied at the rents which were currently demanded when higher prices were to be obtained, the effect is discernible in the gradual loss of capital; although, perhaps, they still cling to their farms in the hope of better times, and are induced also to continue as long as they possibly can for another reason, namely, that having been brought up as sheep farmers from their early days, they cannot conveniently, or with much prospect of success, resort to any other kind of employment; they are thus, therefore, compelled, as it were, to endeavour to bear up against the difficulties of the times, until, at length, their whole property is exhausted.

In a few instances, landlords have voluntarily abated part of the rent; and where farms have been given up in consequence of the tenants becoming bankrupt, or from other causes; there are cases in which on their being taken by substantial new tenants, a reduction of 25 per cent. has been made in the rent, and even with reference to some holdings, considerably more.

The following are the prices given for wool during the last eleven years, as stated by the farmers; and the prices for wedders, ewes, and lambs, for the last five:—

Years.	Wedders.		Ewes.		Lambs.		Wool, per Double Stone.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
1818							42	0
1819							20	0
1820							20	0
1821							18	6
1822							12	6
1823							11	0
1824	18	0	12	0	7	0	14	0
1825	23	0	14	0	7	6	22	0
1826	13	0	8	0	5	0	11	0
1827	18	0	8	0	6	0	13	6
1828	17	6	10	6	6	0	11	6

The farms in Perthshire are mostly pasture; and in consequence of the short distance from Glasgow, Edinburgh, &c., the greater part of the sheep are fattened on, and sold off the pasture in September and October. All the hogs are sent out to winter, from the 1st of November, till the first of April, at an expense of 2*s.* 6*d.* per head. Where a wedder stock is kept, they are generally fed separately, that is to say, one year old, two years' old, and three years' old; at three years' old they are sold off. Where there is only a ewe stock, the

lambs are all sold in August, except those which are required for keeping up the stock: the ewes are sold as stock ewes, at 5 and 6 years old, in November. Both ewe and wedder flocks are kept in this county, but most of the farms have a ewe stock. The ewes have their first lamb at two years of age.

With the view of producing a more valuable wool, several experiments have been made with Cheviot sheep in Perthshire, but they have been found not to answer the wished for object; it is therefore now thought impossible to improve the wool, unless the small sheep, bred 30 years ago, were again introduced; but these would not give the requisite weight when fat, for killing.

Sheep and wool form the entire dependence of the farmers in this county, except where there is a fair proportion of arable land. The average rent for sheep, is 3*s.* per head: where there is no arable land, the wool, it is estimated, ought to defray one half of the rent; where there is a good proportion of arable, one third of the rent is allotted to be paid out of the produce of the wool. In consequence of the present low price of wool, the value of land may be considered to have decreased at least one third.

The shepherds here are generally paid in money; but some are paid, as in other districts

in Scotland, by allowing them pasture for a certain number of sheep.

The sales and returns from a flock of 1,000 sheep, at the present prices of sheep and wool, are estimated as follows, for one year, viz.

	£.	s.	d.
300 lambs, at 6*s.* each	90	0	0
100 shots, at 3*s.*	15	0	0
30 fat ewes, at 13*s.*	19	10	0
120 stock ewes, at 9*s.*	54	0	0
10 old tups, at 13*s.*	6	10	0
90 double stones of wool, at 11*s.* 6*d.*	51	15	0
Offal	5	0	0
	241	15	0

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Expenses of smearing, &c.	11	0	0			
Wintering in the low country 260 hogs, at 2*s.* 6*d.* each	32	10	0			
For improving tups, from the south country	6	0	0			
Wages to two shepherds, attending the flock of 1,000 sheep, or board and wages	42	0	0			
Capital invested in 1,000 sheep, supposed to be worth, on an average, 15*s.* per head, 750*l.*						
Interest on ditto for 12 months	37	10	0			
Expenses of sale, &c.	2	0	0			
Taxes	0	8	0			
				131	8	0
Net sum remaining for rent, farmer's profit, &c.				110	7	0

The black-faced sheep are, as already stated, the only breed in this county, no other having been found to thrive here. At the present prices, the carcass is estimated to be worth 15*s.* for the butcher, and the wool 1*s.* 6*d.*; formerly, the carcass sold for 20*s.* and the wool for 2*s.* 6*d.* each clip or shear.

ROXBURGHSHIRE.

The soil on most of the hills in this county affords green pasture, but on the higher parts and the moors, there is an intermixture of heather, moss, ling, deer hair, and bent. There is a proportion of winter as well as of summer pasture. The flocks are not suffered, as in some districts, to run altogether, but are divided and classed according to the different ages of the sheep; they are generally, however, kept in ewe and wedder flocks. Scarcely any black-faced sheep are bred on the hills, nor is it supposed that the cross, if tried, would succeed. The weight of a white fleece here is rather above 2½ pounds, and that of a laid one a little more than 3½ pounds. The ewes, in general, have their first lamb at three years' old. The prices which, in this county, are considered as remunerating ones, are as follow, viz. for old wedders, 26*s.*; for young ones, 21*s.*; for ewes, 20*s.*; for Cheviot lambs, 8*s.* 6*d.*; for white wool, 26*s.*; and for smeared wool, 20*s.* for 24 pounds. The expense of smearing is about 4½*d.* per head, including labour. The shepherds are paid by being allowed to

keep a certain number of sheep and cows, their own property, proportioned to the extent of their charge, upon the farm, the profits arising from which constitute their wages, or rather are a substitute for a money payment.

Sheep and wool form the principal, if not the sole dependence of the elevated quarter of the county; the lower parts are in a high state of cultivation. With regard to the quality of the wool, it might, it is believed, be much improved, by means of a careful selection of the finest-coated rams and ewes; but the heaviest and longest piled fleeces, having been of late years the most profitable, in consequence of there being a better and more constant demand for them in the market, it is not, of course, under these circumstances, the interest of the sheep farmers to increase the fineness of their wool in these high and northern latitudes: there is also this very material consideration, that the finer and shorter the wool is made, the less covering there is for the lamb when first brought forth, which renders it liable to be instantly destroyed by the severity of the storms that so frequently occur during the lambing season.

The rent of the sheep farms is estimated at the rate of 6*s*. 6*d*. to 9*s*. per head, for ewes; 5*s*. 6*d*. to 6*s*. 6*d*. for wedders; 4*s*. to 5*s*. for din-

monts and gimmers; and 4*s*. 6*d*. to 5*s*. 6*d*. for hogs. In low safe pastures, where a ewe stock is kept, it is considered that the wool ought to pay from one-third to one-half of the rent; and, on the more stormy lands, where a ewe and wedder stock is kept, that it ought to defray from one-half to two-thirds. The rent of land, in general, has, in the course of the last sixteen years, fallen 25 per cent., but within the last twelve years the diminution has not been more than 15 per cent., the other 10 per cent. having been taken off within the first four years of the period first mentioned. In order to support the rent now charged upon farms, it has been already stated, that 26*s*. per stone for white, and 20*s*. for smeared wool, are considered absolutely necessary as remunerating prices; but the present prices being, upon the average, only 17*s*. 6*d*. for white, and 11*s*. for smeared wool, it is obvious, that should those rates continue for a few years longer, a large proportion of the Cheviot farmers must be utterly ruined, and, consequently, their landlords be great sufferers.

The sheep are, in general, kept at home during the whole of the winter: a few are taken from the stormiest parts of the Cheviot Hills to low moors near the sea, where food is obtained for them at the rate of about 2*d*. per head per week.

The average prices of wool and sheep, during the last ten years, are stated by the farmers as follow:

Years	Smeared Wool, 24 pounds.		Ewes, 5 Years old.		Wedders, 2 Years old.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
In 1819	27	0	26	0	30	0
1820	20	0	20	6	20	0
1821	20	0	12	6	15	6
1822	19	6	10	6	16	0
1823	17	0	12	6	20	6
1824	17	0	14	9	22	0
1825	23	0	24	0	27	0
1826	14	0	12	0	13	6
1827	13	3	16	6	20	0
1828	11	0	16	6	19	0

N. B. These prices will rather be above the average for wool, wedders, and ewes, in the east border.

An in-coming tenant is not bound to take the stock or buildings at a valuation, nor is it thought that the introduction of such a practice would be advisable: neither is there any obligation upon the landlords to take the stock of their tenants at the expiration of a lease. The buildings upon a farm belong to the landlord, who, at the commencement of a lease, puts them into sufficient repair, and the tenant is bound to leave them in that state at the expiration of his term. The period of entering upon farms is the 26th of May; they are generally held upon leases, at a money rent. The rents

are paid half-yearly, the first half year being due at the Martinmas after entry, but it is not usually demanded till Candlemas. The highways are kept in repair by means of money jointly paid by the landlords and tenants, as a composition for statute labour. A small proportion of arable land is in general attached to each sheep farm, and covenants with regard to its management are usually inserted in the leases.

With reference to the sales and returns from a flock of 1,000 sheep, which may be supposed to consist of 20 score of ewes, 14 score of gimmers and dinmonts, and 16 score of hogs, and of which 40 hogs may be expected to die during the season, and about 20 older sheep, the produce is estimated as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
The white wool of 33 score of ewes, gimmers, and dinmonts, 73 stone, at 17*s.* 6*d.*	63	17	6
14 ditto hog wool, smeared, 42 stone, at 11*s.*	23	2	0
3 score of skins, at 9*d.*	2	5	0
2 ditto, small lambs, at 4*s.* 6*d.*	9	0	0
110 ewes, at 17*s.*	93	10	0
10 shots, at 9*s.*	4	10	0
120 wethers, at 19*s.*	114	0	0
10 shots, at 14*s.*	7	0	0
2 tups, at 25*s.*	2	10	0
	319	14	6

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward				319	14	6
DEDUCT EXPENSES.						
Bathing and smearing.....	9	7	6			
Public burdens, road money, taxes, &c.	7	0	0			
Interest of £1000., being the capital required, at 5 per cent.	50	0	0			
Incidental expenses, sending sheep to market, entertaining customers, &c.	3	7	0			
				69	14	6
Remains for shepherds' wages, rent, and support of tenant and family				250	0	0

Vide. What the rent averages per head for 1,000 sheep?

SELKIRKSHIRE.

The natural pasture of this county consists of a little moss and bent, a considerable quantity of heath, and a large proportion of variegated grassy bogs and green hills, affording both summer and winter pasturage. Selkirkshire is entirely a breeding district, but the flocks are allowed to graze promiscuously without any regard to the difference in the ages of the sheep. A few wedders were formerly reared, but at present the flocks are all ewe ones. The description of sheep generally kept are those of the Cheviot breed; there are, however, a few black-faced in those parts where the Cheviot wedders were formerly reared. The average weight of the fleece is about 4 pounds. The ewes are not usually allowed to have their first lamb till they are two years old.

The prices which are considered by the farmers in this district as remunerating ones, are, for ewes, 18*s.*; lambs, 9*s.*; tarred wool, 9*d.* per pound; and wedders, if kept, 24*s.* The expense of smearing is here estimated at 4*d.* per head. The shepherds are paid in kind. The principal dependence of the farmers in this

county, especially in the upper district, is upon sheep and wool. It is admitted, however, that finer wool might be produced by means of judicious management.

The average rent of land is estimated at 4*s.* 9*d.* per sheep, and, as in other districts, the wool is calculated upon to produce a sum equal to half the rent. Here, as elsewhere, the value of land has decreased in consequence of the fall in prices; and, with reference to those farms that have been lately re-let, the abatement of rent is about 20 per cent., and this of necessity. It is obvious, therefore, that those farmers who hold upon old contracts, must be carrying on their business at a ruinous loss, which their landlords will ultimately feel in a double proportion, if some improvement in the prices does not speedily take place.

The sheep, during the winter, are generally kept at home.

The following is a statement, as given by the farmers, of the average prices of sheep and wool, during the last ten years: wedders, 22*s.* 6*d.*; ewes, 16*s.*; top lambs, 7*s.* 6*d.*; wool, 13*s.* per 24 pounds, English.

Vide.—What are remunerating prices?

The landlords are not in any case bound to take the stock of an out-going tenant, neither is the in-comer under any obligation to take it,

but, in some instances, he has to pay for buildings, according to a valuation. The buildings, however, in general, belong to the proprietor of the land, who puts them in a proper condition at the commencement of a lease, and they are afterwards kept in proper repair at the expense of the tenant, who is bound to leave them in that state when he quits the farm.

The rents are paid half-yearly, at Candlemas and Lammas, sometimes at Martinmas; the highways are kept in repair by the landlords and tenants, who respectively pay an equal portion of the expense.

In about two-thirds of the county, a portion of arable land is attached to the sheep farms, which is held under restrictions as to the mode of its cultivation.

The gross produce of the sales of 1,000 sheep of this district, during the last season, was estimated at about £340., being, upon the average, 6*s*. 9½*d*. and a fraction of a farthing per head, and 4*s*. 9*d*. per head being required for rent and discharging the public burdens, 2*s*. 0½*d*. is the whole profit hanging to each sheep, to defray every expense, and to procure to the farmer the means of supporting himself and family.

SUSSEX.

To several particulars connected with this county, having already noticed them in our former work, it is unnecessary again to advert. The natural herbage of Sussex is generally good, though chiefly adapted for summer, but on the dry uplands, it is nutritious for sheep and cattle during great part of the winter.

There is no custom here binding the landlords to take the stock upon sheep farms, at the expiration of the lease; neither is the in-coming tenant under any obligation to take either live or dead stock; it would, however, be advisable for the stock to be taken at a valuation. All the sheep farms in Sussex have a considerable proportion of arable land attached to them; a farm, for instance, carrying 1,000 ewes, would consist of 600 acres of arable and 600 acres of down. The arable land comprized in these farms, is held under the same restrictions that are applied to the other cultivated parts of the county.

The flocks on the South Downs in Sussex, are all South Down ewes or wethers. The wethers are flocked by themselves, as are also the two-tooth ewes, but the three and four-

tooth ewes are put together. A great number of Dorset and South Down ewes are kept in the weald for the purpose of fattening the lambs, likewise wethers for the same purpose; none but South Down ewes are kept for stock. The average weight of a Down fleece is 2½ pounds, and of a Dorset, 4 pounds. The ewes have their first lamb at two years old.

With regard to the smearing of sheep, no experiment has been tried here with what is called Taylor's salve; but if an application of grease was resorted to, and properly administered, there is no doubt it would produce a beneficial result.

The South Down sheep are considered to be more profitable, and to produce better wool than any other kind of sheep, which can exist upon the herbage of the county, or under the mode of treatment that is found necessary. It is by crossing some of the formerly coarsest short woolled sheep, such as those of Wiltshire, Berkshire, and parts of Hampshire, with the South Downs, Merinos, and Rylands, that a far superior and finer fleece has been produced than that which they originally possessed; and there is no doubt that the fleeces are very generally improved throughout Great Britain; but the error into which many persons unacquainted with the various changes and crosses that have

taken place in the different counties are led, is, that they are induced to consider a great part of the wool which is sent into the markets from various districts, as South Down, when, probably, the original stock from which it has been produced, was of the commonest and coarsest short woolled breed, but having a cross of South Down, or Merino, it thence takes the best selling name; and thus, perhaps, arises the idea amongst the staplers and manufacturers, that the fine wools of Britain have deteriorated, whereas the direct contrary is known to be the fact.

On the South Downs, sheep and wool are greatly depended upon for profit. The land in this county varies so much in price and goodness, and the sheep farms being differently situated, some having more Down land than others, that it would be difficult to average the rent of land, per head. The sheep districts in England are differently circumstanced to those in Scotland; the sheep in the former being supported by a great quantity of artificial food, which is provided for them, the expense of which ought to be repaid by the grain they contribute to produce; whilst, in the latter, they subsist on the natural herbage, which renders easy the estimate of rent per head.

The South Down farmers, with respect to

the sheep they are enabled to dispose of at different ages, calculate by the score; they consider that the amount of a remunerating price varies according to the nature of the land, from £15. to £25. per score; that of wool, is estimated at from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.* per pound.

The shepherds are paid by the week, or the year, at the rate of from 12*s.* to 15*s.* per week.

The sheep on the Downs are washed with a preparation of arsenic and water, at an expense of 1*d.* per head.

It is estimated, that the wool on the South Downs ought to pay one fifth of the rent. The sheep farms, however, owing to the low price of their produce, have decreased in value full one third; and if the present depression continues, the situation of the farmers must gradually, or even rapidly, become worse and worse.

The South Down farmers send out to keep, their ewe lambs which they intend for stock, from Michaelmas to Lady-day, at a charge of 5*s.* per head.

The current price of South Down wool, in Sussex, has been for the last ten years, from £3. to £1. 8*s.* per 32 pounds; that of wethers for the same period, from £1. 14*s.* to £1. 6*s.*; of ewes, from £1. 9*s.* to 19*s.*; and of lambs,

from £1. 9*s*. to 9*s*. On the South Downs, the flocks that are kept are ewe flocks.

The produce of 1,000 ewes would be, according to present prices, £750, leaving but a trifling remuneration to the grower, after paying rent, taxes, and other necessary charges.

No doubt is entertained here that the wool partakes of the colour of the soil. Herbage grown on chalky soils, is believed to produce the finest wool, but it is not considered that the chalk renders it so, or that it absorbs the yolk, and thereby depriving the wool of its requisite nourishment. Sheep that have to travel most for their food, it is observed, produce the shortest and finest wool. The heat of the sun, it is believed, encourages, to a certain extent, the growth of wool, which is also promoted by unguents, properly applied. It is also thought, that slightly greasing the sheep soon after clipping, as well as on the approach of winter, would improve the fleece, and that the expense would be repaid by the additional quantity of wool. The quantity of yolk is believed to be very materially increased by particular modes of feeding.

An application of grease to the sheep, used immediately after shearing, has a tendency to prevent cutaneous diseases, and the effects

arising from fly, &c.; greased sheep, also, throw off snow and rain much sooner than those that are not greased. It is thought, that, for this purpose, wax might be substituted instead of tar, by which any discolouration of the fleece might be avoided.

The sheep, in Sussex, are usually washed in ponds, the water of which cleanses the wool much better than a running stream, it being softer.

The housing or cotting of sheep in inclement weather, would, it is considered, repay the expense; but this is not to be understood to mean close confinement, which would cause the sheep to lose the wool upon their bellies before the time of clipping, through their lying upon dung.

There is a great difference, in point of time, with regard to the effect produced upon different breeds of sheep as to the fleece, by a change of pasture; the Merino, or Spanish, are supposed to resist longer than any other breed, any alteration in the fleece arising from this cause: those sheep which fatten the quickest, are believed to feel the effect the soonest

It has been found here, that, by overstocking rich pastures, the fleece is not improved in fineness, but, on the contrary, it is deteriorated, and becomes jointed; the same effect is not

produced upon poor pastures, which is to be accounted for from the quality of the herbage. It has also been ascertained, that the wool, after a mild winter, is stronger than after a severe season, but not coarser, the animal not obtaining a sufficiency of food in the latter, renders the wool weaker. The wool, however, which is grown during the winter, is of very trifling amount; for which reason the application of an unguent after shearing, would be very beneficial, as it would not only tend to increase the growth of wool, but also to prevent the sheep from being disturbed by the fly. Whatever, indeed, tends to increase the growth of the wool after clipping, would be strictly in unison with the order of nature, it being well known that birds and beasts are all furnished with their winter clothing previous to the approach of winter.

NORTH WALES,

CARNARVONSHIRE, MERIONETHSHIRE, MONTGOMERYSHIRE, & ANGLESEA.

The natural herbage of these counties, consists of common grass, intermixed with plants and leaves of a great variety of descriptions. The sheep farms, in general, comprize both winter and summer pasture; but, in some instances, the farms are too large, and in others the sheep walks are too small; in the former case, the occupiers take summer grass from their neighbours; and in the latter, winter grass; or they exchange with each other. These farms are usually entered upon on the 25th of March; and by the 1st of May, the out-going tenants remove entirely; they are commonly held only from year to year. The rents, except in some instances, are paid only once a year, about the period of Christmas. The highways are kept in repair by means of the Statute duty performed by the farmers; but in some parishes, a composition in lieu of it, is paid, as in several other counties. The buildings on the farms belong to the landlord, who pays for the requisite repairs. With reference to the stock on these

farms, leases being rarely granted, and there consequently being no stipulations or covenants respecting this subject, it is customary for the outgoing tenant either to agree with his successor as to the taking of the stock, or to dispose of it to the best advantage: in general, however, the incoming tenant takes some part of the stock, especially the sheep, it being his interest so to do; but there is no usage that is at all obligatory upon him, to adopt this course.

To several farms, a proportion of arable land is attached, respecting which there is no restriction as to crops; the straw, as well as the hay, belong to the tenant; if he gives up the farm, he cannot sell off this part of the stock; but when compelled to leave, he frequently disposes of the whole.

With regard to the management of the sheep, the flocks of the same farm are generally all mixed together, without any distinction as to age; the wedders are sold at four, five, and six; the ewes at one, two, and three years old; they in general consist both of ewe and wedder flocks. Very little attention has been paid in these counties, to the quality of the wool grown, though, undoubtedly, by means of proper treatment, and care of the sheep, a more valuable fleece might be produced. In Anglesea, however, there is some difference, as compared with

the other districts alluded to, the sheep there being the Leicester cross, with the Anglesea breed; that is to say, long legged, and short wooled sheep, (supposed to have been originally a cross between the South Down, and the wild mountain breed;) the wedders there are sold and slaughtered at two years old; the ewes are sold at from three to four years old; the ewe lambs are cut or spayed: no large flocks are kept in Anglesea, those which are the most numerous, not consisting of more than from 120 to 200, and of these, not more than 40 or 50 are ewes: the weight of the best fleeces is from 3 to 4 pounds, and the average price of the wool, for the last ten years, about ninepence per pound.

Sheep and wool form the principal dependence of the farmers, in the uplands of these counties, or nearly so; but there are few or no farms, where some cattle are not bred. There are also but very few farms that produce neither hay nor corn; where, however, this happens to be the case, from 300 to 400 sheep must be kept, the rent being four or five pounds per annum. What are here considered remunerating prices, are, for wedders, 14*s.* to 16*s.* per head; ewes, 5*s.* to 6*s.*; lambs, 6*s.* to 7*s.*; wool, 10½*d.* to 12½*d.* per pound. The shepherds

are paid like other servants, by the year. The practice of smearing the sheep with an unguent, has not been introduced in this district.

Where neither cattle nor corn are produced on a farm, the proportion of the rent which ought to be defrayed out of the produce of the wool, is estimated at about the half; but, owing to the fall in the price of wool, the value of land has decreased full one-fourth; and, if the present price of wool continues much longer, the tenants must inevitably be ruined.

On some farms, the whole flock is kept at home during the winter; with regard to others, pasture is taken during that season, for the yearlings, at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* per head.

During the last ten years, the prices obtained have been, for wedders, 12*s.* to 21*s.* per head; ewes, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.*; lambs, 4*s.* to 7*s.*; wool, which now only returns 2*s.* 6*d.* for 5 pounds, has been, within that period, as high as 5*s.* and 7*s.* 6*d.* for the same quantity. This latter fact, at once shows the ruinous depreciation in the price of wool, it having fallen, within the period alluded to, nearly 70 per cent. The quantity of 5 pounds just mentioned, makes what is here called a stone, by which the wool is sold; it is in general washed before shearing. The sales and returns made from a flock of 1,000 sheep,

at the present prices, are calculated at £1. each, for wedders; but for ewes and yearlings, scarcely the half of that.

It has already been mentioned, that the practice of greasing sheep with an unguent, has not been introduced here: it may be requisite to add, that the experiment has not been in any manner tried in this district, either before or after shearing; nor have any observations been made or recorded, as to the effect of soil or food, in any way, upon the wool.

The practice of washing sheep in rivers and ponds, it is believed, might be altered for the better, as the throwing them into cold water, after running in hot weather, is considered to be very injurious to the animal, as well as to the persons engaged in the operation.

The housing, or cotting of sheep in inclement weather, or at least on large sheep farms, or having open sheds for the sheep to go into in bad weather, or to escape the extreme heat of the sun, would, it is believed, be highly useful, tending to the improvement both of the carcass and the wool.

The Merinos are not considered sufficiently hardy, to endure the climate of the Carnarvonshire, and Merionethshire mountains.

It has been observed, that when the winter is mild, and there is consequently a greater

abundance of food, the sheep become stronger, and produce, at the ensuing clip, a greater quantity of wool, of a sounder and more perfect quality; whilst a dearth, either of winter or summer food, affects the staple of the wool, and tends to render it jointed and weaker.

It has been already mentioned, that the wool of these counties, has fallen very nearly 70 per cent. in price, within the last ten years; it is proper to add, that such diminution is full 50 per cent. below a remunerating price, for the finer descriptions of Welsh wool; and the sheep in this district, being managed precisely in the same way as they have been for ages, having no other food than the native herbage of the mountains, it is in the highest degree unfair, on the part of the woollen manufacturers, or their advocates, to say that the wool has deteriorated, there being no cause which could possibly produce any such deterioration. It is evident, therefore, that the decline in price arises from the influx of foreign wool into the British markets, and from no other circumstance.

ON THE

DEPOPULATION OF THE HIGHLANDS,

AND THE

THROWING SEVERAL SMALL FARMS INTO ONE TRACK OF SHEEP WALK, AS HAS BEEN DONE IN THE NORTH.

In order to avoid repetition, we abstained from noticing this topic, in any of our notices of the Highland districts, but we feel it necessary to say a few words upon the subject, without attempting to enter into any lengthened detail respecting it, that having already been very ably done, in the highly interesting and entertaining work on the Highlands, by General D. Stewart, of Garth. The filial affection, invariably displayed by the Highlanders of Scotland, towards their parents, was, undoubtedly, as stated by that gallant officer, a great means of preventing those early marriages, which tend so much to the increase of pauperism. Through the influence of this feeling, a numerous family was never thought an incumbrance by parents, but on the contrary, a certain resource in their declining years, for support and subsistence; it being

universally considered by them an indispensable duty, on the part of the children, when grown up, to protect, and work for the maintenance of their parents, in their old age.

The facts and descriptions given and alluded to, in the work just mentioned, prove, how highly necessary it is, to be extremely careful in breaking up any system, which has formed the character of a race of people, both moral and political; and it may justly be doubted, whether improvements in husbandry, which produce so much misery and degradation to the original occupiers of a country, afford any advantage to the proprietors of the soil, which can at all counterbalance the great mass of evil, thus arising from them. And if there is any doubt as to this point, surely the experiment ought not to be persevered in, leading as it does, and has done, to the expulsion of thousands of the inhabitants, from their native home, who are thus driven to seek their subsistence in a foreign land, and become alienated from their king, and their country.

It is not attempted to be denied, that great improvements in the breeds of sheep, depastured in the mountains of the Highlands, have been effected; on the contrary, we believe, that so far as regards the improvement of the breeds, so much could not have been done in the same

space of time, by any other means: but this only serves to palliate the injury done to this valuable race of people, and cannot reconcile it to the feelings of those, who are aware of the intrinsic worth of such tenantry, and duly appreciate the claims which they have upon their superiors, in return for the support the latter derived from them, in the hour of difficulty and of danger.

In some parts of Scotland, more particularly in the northern districts, the ousting of the old tenantry has been carried on with an unsparing hand; and thus hundreds of peaceable and respectable tenants, have been driven to seek an asylum far from that home, and those native mountains, which to them formed a solace, a source of comfort and delight, unknown to the inhabitants of a more civilized country. Had time been afforded for making this change, (were it considered necessary,) it could probably have been managed in a manner much better calculated to ensure the ultimate benefit of the proprietors. At all events, the policy which has been adopted and acted upon, of introducing speculators, and throwing together immense districts, into the hands of a few individuals, renders these alterations very hazardous, in a pecuniary point of view, whilst in either a

political or a moral one, it will not bear discussion.

We trust, therefore, that the day of these innovations, upon the character, the manners, and the occupations of the inhabitants of the mountains and glens of the Highlands, is gone by; and that it will be succeeded by a milder and more conciliatory system, under which there is no doubt, that by giving them that encouragement and security, which their long and faithful services to their chiefs, and their country, are fully deserving of, every improvement in the modes of management in husbandry, that can be desirable, may be effected, without any risk of loss to the proprietors; but on the contrary, as shewn by General Stewart, with an ultimate certain advantage to those landholders, who have had the patience to wait, till a system thus in unison with the best feelings of our nature, could be properly matured.

SUMMARY VIEW

OF THE

FACTS AND STATEMENTS

IN THE FOREGOING PAGES,

WITH

EXPLANATORY REMARKS;

SHEWING THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF AN ALTERATION
IN THE POLICY ACTED UPON FOR SOME TIME PAST,

WITH REGARD TO THE

WOOL GROWERS.

PRO REGE, LEGE, ET GREGE.

SUMMARY VIEW,

&c. &c.

The facts already detailed in the course of this work, clearly establish, that a very heavy loss has been sustained, and is continually accruing to the sheep farmer, in consequence of the low prices of British wool. It is equally evident, that, in a very short time, if the prices of wool remain at the present rates, the most serious consequences will be felt by the whole community. A great diminution of stock must inevitably be the immediate result throughout the kingdom, in those districts of mountain and highland where sheep are bred chiefly for the value of their fleeces, as the low prices not yielding any profit would, of course, induce the sheep farmers to lessen their stocks, or totally discard them. This change would soon be felt by the graziers, who could not in consequence be sufficiently supplied with lean stock; and indeed it has already so much operated to raise

the prices of that description of stock, particularly sheep, that in many cases the fattened sheep have not produced the prices originally given for the lean ones; the grazier of course, in that case, losing the whole amount expended in the process of fattening, obtaining nothing towards the payment of his rent and expenses, and in fact sacrificing a portion of his capital.

It is obvious, that, under these circumstances, the allowing the import of foreign wool to the injury of a similar production of our own country, would be the cause of considerable loss to the community; and this merely through a mistaken notion, (for such it undoubtedly is,) that such imported wool is essentially necessary for the purpose of carrying on our woollen manufactures.

We say, mistaken notion, for notwithstanding the evidence given by some of the manufacturers before the Parliamentary Committees; and though it may be admitted, that from the vast number of sheep which the modern mode of turnip husbandry has for some years past produced, there has been a greater increase than formerly of long wool in proportion to fine, in Great Britain, yet it is equally certain, that the long wools of Lincolnshire and Leicestershire have materially improved the staple in fineness by the cross of new Leicesters. It is

admitted that they have lost in length of pile, but this, in the present day, does not appear so great a desideratum with the manufacturer; and it tends to prove that the wool has not deteriorated in quality, though it is diminished in weight and length.

The long wools of Lincolnshire have undoubtedly improved in fineness and quality; they have nevertheless fallen in value at least 50 per cent., and nearly 30 from a remunerating price: the same may be said of the fine wools of Wales as to price, which are indeed unaltered, but have depreciated in value 70 per cent.! These two instances cannot be caused from deterioration of quality.

Though we may admit, that a larger quantity of the long wools are introduced in the flocks of Great Britain, yet it should not be forgotten, that a great and most important improvement in the fineness of the fleece has been effected in some of our breeds, which were formerly the coarsest short woolled sheep, such as those of Wilts, Berkshire, and parts of Hampshire, where, by crossing with the Downs, Merinos, and Rylands, a far superior and finer fleece is now produced, than what they originally possessed. We have, therefore, no hesitation in saying, that the fleeces are, beyond all doubt, very generally improved throughout Great Britain. Those who

assert, that our wool is deteriorated, are many of them led into an error by the tricks which are practised in the markets, especially if they are not well acquainted with the different counties, and the changes and crosses which have taken place in them. Thus, much of the wool which is sent to market from many counties, is denominated South Down, though, probably, the original stock from which it has been produced, was of the commonest and coarsest short woolled breed; but, having a cross of South Down, or Merino, it thence assumes the best selling name: in this manner is engendered the idea, in the minds of staplers and manufacturers, that the fine wools of Britain are deteriorated, though the direct contrary, namely, that the coarser kinds of short wool have become much finer by the cross, is well known to be the fact.

A considerable period might probably elapse, before a sufficient quantity of finer fleeces of the Merino breed could be raised in Great Britain, but that it may be effected in favourable situations, there is no doubt, by means of that attention and care which are pointed out by Mr. H. Kirby Trimmer, in his valuable pamphlet lately published upon that subject. Where the convertible husbandry is, or might be pursued, the system he recommends might be carried on, and improvements thus successively and profitably

made in the fleece by crossing with the Merino, and with the pure blood of the Nigrette breed or real Spanish, provided shelter were given, and food supplied when necessary. This, however, could only be done with advantage in particular places, where the husbandry was suitable, and appropriate buildings were to be obtained. But these difficulties are not so great as to prevent the extension and improvement of the breed in the manner proposed, where conveniences fitting for the purpose are to be had, and where the climate is such as to ensure some probability of success. We would earnestly recommend trials for this purpose to be made in Norfolk, Suffolk, Devonshire, &c., as they would doubtless lead to great improvement in our fleeces, even if all that was sought should not be obtained. That they may be much improved, all the facts that have been collected with reference to the subject, tend decidedly to establish; and if proper care and attention were bestowed, and conveniences supplied, there is scarcely a question that the result would be highly beneficial.

Till, however, the wished for degree of perfection in the fleece can be obtained, there is no doubt that a certain quantity of fine wool, (it having always been more or less necessary to the manufacturer,) is required to be imported into

this country; but we much doubt whether that article is essentially requisite for the general manufacture of woollen cloths and goods, to the extent that several of the manufacturers have stated in their evidence before the Committees upon the Wool Question of the two Houses of Parliament. They have alleged that the English wool cannot be used, by itself, for any of the commonest purposes of clothing. This is certainly a most unaccountable change since those periods, when it was universally believed, that without English wool no woollen cloths could be well manufactured on the Continent. For such a sudden deterioration in the quality of our native fleeces, no sufficient cause is assigned, nor can any reason for it be discovered in any work referring to the subject, or be derived from any known facts connected with it. It is justly observed by Lord Stanhope, that this alleged deterioration in the quality of English wool, was not discovered, till, through the taking off the duty on the importation of foreign coarse wools, it had become the interest of the manufacturer to use the foreign, in preference to the domestic commodity. The allegation indeed thus made, and under such circumstances, forces upon our remembrance the observation of Sir J. Child, that " merchants, while they are in the busy and eager prosecution of their parti-

cular trades, although they be very wise and good men, are not always the best judges of *trade, as it relates to the power and profit of a kingdom.* The reason may be, because their eyes are so continually fixed upon what makes for their *peculiar gain or loss,* that they have no leisure to expatiate, or turn their thoughts to what is *most advantageous to the kingdom in general.* Of this I could give pregnant instances, in the age we live in, and former Councils of Trade, since the Restoration. The like may be said of all shop-keepers, artificers, *clothiers,* and other manufacturers, until they have left off their trades, and being rich, by the purchase of lands, become of the same *common interest* with most of their countrymen."

We should hope that this serious denunciation against the English trader, cannot be so generally applied in the present day; but the statements made by the manufacturers, which are not only contradictory in themselves but at variance with each other, are so strongly and ably exposed and refuted in the remarks and letter of the Earl Stanhope to the wool growers, already alluded to, that their testimony, without in the least impeaching their individual respectability, must be received with great doubt. It is not meant in the slightest degree to be asserted, that they would deliberately utter false-

hoods, but every man who has lived at all in the world knows the sway that self-interest bears over the mind, and it is this which has given a colour to their statements that will not bear the application as a test of actual facts.

It should always be borne in mind in looking to this question, that within the last thirty years a very considerable quantity of land has been brought into cultivation for the production of grain, chiefly barley and oats, which cultivation, previous to the introduction of the turnip system of husbandry, could not be profitably carried on: any measure, therefore, which tends materially to lessen the value of the sheep, either with reference to its fleece or its carcass, must eventually throw these light lands out of use, or at least destroy that productive state of them arising from the breeds of sheep, which may probably be calculated at twenty to one compared with their former produce. It is evident, therefore, that if such land be compelled to return to its former state, not only the price of corn would, in a very short time, be increased, but, from the want of food for sheep in winter and spring, the price of fat meat would be much augmented, to the great injury of the general consumer, whilst a very considerable loss would be sustained by the agriculturists; it being at the same time clear that the public would gain

nothing by having meat dear and wool cheap: though even the latter advantage, if it could be deemed any, dearly purchased as it would be, must be very questionable, because as soon as it became known that there was any deficiency in the home produce of wool, the price of continental wool would rise in proportion; and, in the event of war, we might be altogether excluded from the means of purchasing it, in consequence of those channels being closed through which alone it could be procured.

With regard to the effect produced by those causes which operate from without, it is only necessary to look at the little variation which has taken place in the price of meat, compared with other articles of agricultural produce, to shew that the great fluctuations which have been so often witnessed in the prices of corn and wool, have arisen from foreign importation, or the hovering of it, (if we may be allowed such an expression,) over the markets; and which fluctuations, it is well known, have been equally detrimental in general to both producers and consumers.

The manufacturer may, it is true, obtain a temporary gain, by importing wool at a cheaper rate than that at which the domestic article can be afforded; but, ultimately, he would not only have no advantage, but must sustain considera-

ble loss, as the price of meat must greatly rise if lands are not largely cultivated for the breeding and fattening of sheep, which would much increase his expenditure, whilst his receipts would be considerably diminished, through the inability of many of his best customers, the agriculturists, to purchase his commodities.

With regard to the superior quality of the fleece, we have very ancient authority for the opinion, that rank pasture lands tending to *over-fatten* the animal, were considered injurious to the fineness of the fleece. Virgil says:

> "Is wool thy care? Let not thy cattle go
> Where bushes are, where burs and thistles grow;
> Nor in too rank a pasture let them feed:
> Then of the purest white select thy breed."
>
> *Dryden's Virgil, Geo.* iii.

So many proofs have indeed been afforded, that a *very* fine fleece and an aptitude to fatten at an early age, cannot be attained in the same animal, that we must, though unwillingly, give up that point, (undoubtedly a very great desideratum, could it possibly be attained,) though this does not militate, as experience has shewn, against considerable improvements being made in the wool. This state of circumstances is analogous to the character and habits in general of the vegetable creation, it being well known that

the richest soils produce only plants of large and rank growth and leaf; but that if it is wished to have a luxuriancy of flower or bloom, the lighter compositions of soil must be resorted to: nature, indeed, may be said to sport in this way, as is evidenced by the commons covered with furze and broom flowers, and the mountain sides with heather.

There is another difficulty to contend with in this country, which must in a great measure prevent our attaining that perfection in the fleece, possessed by the flocks of Spain, namely, the great moisture and variableness of our climate: the rains, if the sheep are not under shelter, wash out the yolk from the fleece, and this is so essential to the production of fine wool, that no artificial means have yet been discovered, through which its loss can be supplied. It may, therefore, justly be said, (qualifying, however, this expression by observing, that, as before suggested, much finer wool may, by means of proper care and management, be produced in several parts of the United Kingdom, than has hitherto, or is at present grown there,) that in the present state of our knowledge with reference to this subject, to attempt the possession of the finest fleece in the flocks of Great Britain, to the serious detriment of the carcass, is incompatible with the heavy taxes, poors' rates, and

other burdens, falling, and in some cases falling exclusively or nearly so upon the agriculturists; and more especially under the pressure of present difficulties, as from the great depreciation in the value of their produce, not even a chance is afforded them, through the want of means of being enabled to produce a better commodity.

The case is very different in many countries upon the continent, where the public burdens are comparatively as nothing, and where the carcass is considered of little or no worth, the fleece alone being deemed of any value. There, the quality of the wool may be rendered finer and finer, from peculiar breeds, with every advantage to the flock-masters; but it is doubtful whether the finest fleeces that could be produced in many parts of Great Britain, according to present prices, (no value being set upon the sheep as meat,) would serve to pay the taxes, rates, and compositions, pressing upon the farmer, together with the great expense of housing and feeding; thus leaving nothing to the wool-grower for rent or profit.

Under these circumstances, we are certainly of opinion, that the finer wools of Spain and Germany might be admitted, without any serious injury to the great body of the wool growers of Great Britain; the quantity being nearly ascertained, that could be imported from those coun-

tries at an easy duty: but that the importation of all inferior wools at or under the value of 2*s.* per pound in England, should be either entirely prohibited, or subjected to a duty, amounting in point of fact to a prohibition, till it reaches the remunerating price of the home grower. At the same time, however, no pains ought to be spared by the British wool growers, to attain as much perfection as possible in the fleece, and this, it is fair to presume, the prohibition against the introduction of all foreign wools, except those of a finer quality, would induce them the more sedulously to attempt.*

We cannot help again repeating, that with the charges now bearing so heavily upon landed proprietors and occupiers, it is impossible for them to compete, in point of price, with German barons farming their own estates, upon which there are few charges or burdens, whilst their dependents and labourers live in the most abject poverty, to the utter exclusion of that most useful class, a Yeomanry; or with Hottentots, Tartars, or savages of the uncivilized regions of the

* In Shakespeare's time, the tod of wool was "one pound, odd shilling," as we are told in the *Winter's Tale*, by the reckoning of the clown. In the year 1425, it is stated in Kennett's Parochial Antiquities, at nine shillings and six-pence per tod, about the average of British wool at this day!

globe, in regard to the production of the raw material or produce of the land: nothing being clearer than that a lightly burdened commodity of this description can in any market undersell one of the like nature that is heavily taxed; or that, if this is permitted, the producers of the latter must ere long be ruined by their more successful competitors, if thus driven out of their own home mart.

In support of our opinion, that a large importation of the finer foreign wools is not more necessary now than formerly, we have only to look at the qualities of the foreign wools which are now brought in. It will be seen, that the great augmentation has been, not in the finer, but in the coarser wools: thus, only 1,500,000 pounds were imported from Spain in the year 1827, whilst, in previous years, the quantity amounted to 5,000,000 pounds; and we may, of course, presume, that the wool which is brought from Spain is all of the finest quality. It is true, that, in the same year, there was a considerable increase from Germany, which probably made up the deficiency in the import from Spain, but we are also aware, that a very large proportion of the short coarse foreign wools come from the north of Germany. Mr. Jacob's reports prove that large tracks of land in this quarter, which formerly produced corn, have

been converted into pasture; the consequence is, that there has been a vast increase in the production of wool, especially of the coarser kinds, which can be afforded to be sold at excessively low prices; and this, added to the determination on the part of the woollen manufacturers, which is too clearly apparent, to reduce, by every possible means, the price of the home grown article, easily accounts for the increased importation of wools previous to the year 1824, when the duty was repealed.*

It is evident that an agricultural population have no means whatever of bearing up against such a calamity, but must sink under its pressure, as nature cannot be forced, and there is

* The following Statement was given some time since in the Quarterly Review, (Vide Wool, page 238,) and is also to be found in Pope's Guide, 1827:

"The importation of no species of raw material, except cotton, has increased in the same ratio as that of sheep's wool, which our readers may believe probable, from looking at the following account:

	Pounds.
"Average annual importation of sheep's wool, for the years 1765, 1766, and 1767....	4,211,364
"Average annual importation of the same, for the years 1788, 1789, 1790	2,911,499
"Average annual importation, for the years 1822, 1823, 1824	18,884,876

"At the same time, the consumption of our woollen

no short or mechanical process of growing corn or producing wool, by means of which, foreign competition might be counterworked. With manufacturers the case is different, though, unfortunately, great part of the population employed in this branch of industry are reduced to the lowest ebb of subsistence; but the manufacturers themselves can meet foreign rivalry by means of improved machinery and lower rates of prices, which still leave them a profit, though to enable them to do so, the operatives are severely distressed. But there is no process by which agriculture can thus be borne up, nor is it posssible to pay high taxes and rates by means of low prices.

It has been already observed, that the superior and finer fleeces of Spain and Saxony have been, for a considerable length of time, imported into Great Britain; and, as the primest

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goods, by foreign nations, has been increasing at the rates shewn by the following account:

	£.
"Annual average exportation of woollens, according to the official value, for the years 1765, 1766, and 1767	4,630,384
"The same, for the years 1804, 1805, and 1806	5,667,551
"The same, for the years 1822, 1823, and 1824	6,200,548"

samples have been produced in very insufficient quantities, it would therefore appear advisable, as already stated, to allow the importation of such wools, either from Spain or elsewhere, at a trifling or nominal duty, in order that the quantity might be more readily and accurately ascertained. But it is absolutely essential, that upon the import of all wools of an inferior character, such a duty should be imposed, that it would serve, as in the case of corn, to give a remunerating price to the British wool growers; it being upon these wools that the latter must depend for the ability to pay their taxes and rates, their rent and expenses, and to obtain a subsistence for themselves and their families, as for this commodity they can have no foreign mart, but must entirely rely upon the home market; and if this support is taken from them, in consequence of being undersold by means of foreign competition, no resource whatever is left to them.

By adopting such a system, the manufacturers would have the means of obtaining fine wool at a moderate price, the necessity of which is urged by them, in order to enable them to make up woollen goods for the purpose of meeting the competition in the foreign markets, whilst the British wool growers would be encouraged to make every improvement in their fleeces that

could possibly be effected, without making too great a sacrifice of the value of the carcass, in order to augment the fineness of the wool. With regard to the wool imported from our colonies, it is not here meant to urge the adoption of any new regulations; on the contrary, it is readily admitted, that the system now acted upon in that respect must remain as it is, but great care undoubtedly ought to be taken, that inferior foreign wools are not introduced under the name of colonial produce, or under the sanction of those laws intended only to apply to the latter.

The great danger and the serious consequences that would arise from the prices of British wool remaining at their present rates, still more from their being reduced to a lower amount, would, in a very short time, be felt by the whole community, in consequence of the great diminution of stock, which would take place throughout the United Kingdom. In those districts of mountain and high land, where sheep are kept chiefly for the sake of the fleeces, the little value which would then attach to the wool, would of course induce the breeders greatly to lessen their stocks, if not totally to discard them.

What can otherwise be done by the sheep farmers, when the value of their wool has be-

come depreciated, for the most part full 50 per cent.? It is evident, that estimating the whole value of the fleeces produced in Great Britain, so as to allow a fair remunerating price to the wool grower, at £8,000,000., that the diminution of that value, according to the present prices, amounting to no less than the enormous sum of £4,000,000., would be for the greater part expended in manufactured articles of necessity or luxury, by the proprietors and occupiers of the soil, and by farming labourers. In order, therefore, to balance this account, it becomes necessary to shew, that our exports of woollen manufactures have increased to that amount, or at least in such a proportion as to make up the deficiency in the home trade.* But upon carefully examining the records of the customs, we cannot discover any increase worth mentioning; and certainly from a perusal of these documents, we are enabled to state, fearless of contradiction, that the whole increase of exportation does not amount to any sum at all equivalent to such a deficiency; nor do we think that in the present situation of the old continent, or in the disturbed state of the greater

* In the year 1817, the exports of woollens from Great Britain were £5,586,364. 9*s.* 9*d.*

In the year 1827, the exports of ditto, after repeal of duty, were £5,041,585. 4*s.* 11*d.*

part of the new one, there is any promise or indication of so large an increase in the exports of our manufactures.

It is well known, also, with reference to this part of the subject, that there may be great reason to doubt the actual profits to this country from the returns at the custom-house; and for this plain reason, that the exports, paying no duty, are always valued at the highest, especially as in some cases bounties may be received upon them; whilst, on the contrary, the imports, many of which pay duties upon their relative worth, are in consequence entered at their lowest possible rate. It must, also, at the same time, be remembered, that in many instances where our exports have increased, it has been with reference to those articles, the exportation of which was formerly, or not long since, either prohibited, or subject to high or prohibitory duties. This remark applies to cotton twist, machinery, and other commodities, of the policy of allowing the free exportation of which, by repealing the duties, we have yet to learn the beneficial results, giving, as it certainly does, a great boon to foreigners, in enabling them to manufacture for other markets those goods, of which *we* previously had the entire command. It is alleged, that by means of our superior ingenuity in the improvements of machinery, we

can always retain that command; we hope *that* may prove to be the fact.

These circumstances, therefore, decisively shew, that to lessen that great source of the national wealth of the State, and which has been so considered for ages, namely, the value of the fleece, requires much stronger proofs to warrant it, still more to bring about the destruction of the greater part of it, than the mere theories that have hitherto been set forth, and the delusive hopes of the manufacturers to be enabled to realize a larger gain, by means of a greater demand for their merchandize, through its export to countries yet almost without a name, and its being introduced amongst people hitherto destitute of the means of purchasing it, and strangers to the want of it.

The trite adage, "that one bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," would in this case forcibly apply; and we would earnestly recommend to our manufacturers to look forward beyond the present day, and not to regard an immediate advantage, consisting in a trifling additional profit, as all in all. Let them reflect upon the consequences to themselves and their establishments, of taking nearly £4,000,000. annually out of the circulation in the home market; and let them seriously consider, whether in the nature of things it is possible, for

such a deficiency to be counterbalanced by any accession of foreign trade, and whether their loss would not in that case be much greater than any extra profit they may now make for a short time, through the cheapness of the foreign raw material. Let them pause before they bring on so great an evil, not only upon themselves but upon the whole community; an evil too which would be so much the more to be lamented, as it could not easily be repaired.*

* *Corn and Wool Trade, and British Manufactures Exported.*

An account of the amount of Quarters of Grain imported into Great Britain from the Continent of Europe in each year, from the 5th of January, 1819, to the 5th of January, 1829, inclusive; also, a Return of the quantity of Wool imported from the Continent of Europe into Great Britain in each year, from the 5th of January, 1819, to the 5th of January, 1829, inclusive; and an account of the declared value of British Manufactures exported from Great Britain to the Continent in each year, from the 5th of January, 1819, to the 5th of January, 1829, inclusive.

Years.	Quantities of Grain Meal & Flour imported into Great Britain from the Continent of Europe	Quantities of Sheep's Wool imported into Great Britain from the Continent of Europe.	Declared value of British Produce and Manufactures exported from Great Britain to the Continent of Europe.
	Quarters.	*Pounds.*	£.
1819	1,598,577	14,107,246	15,428,705
1820	1,199,462	9,362,857	17,199,476
1821	180,173	16,362,471	14,843,289

Were the agricultural classes reduced to that low state which they inevitably must be, if they cannot sell their produce except at a loss, their wants so far as regards luxuries would be indeed few; but the manufacturers would then discover too late, that it was to these wants they themselves were indebted for the luxuries they enjoyed. The occupiers of land must of course always possess the necessaries of life, derivable from the soil; but if through the mistaken policy of the State they are prevented from having any surplus to expend, what becomes of the manufacturers and of the manufacturing population?

It is alleged by the woollen manufacturers and merchants, that a proportion of wool superior to what can be produced in Great Britain, must be had by the manufacturer, in order to enable him to produce a cloth, suitable to the taste of the present day, and saleable in the markets both at home and abroad, and that

Years.	*Quarters.*	*Pounds.*	£.
1822	98,763	18,834,318	15,431,230
1823	47,297	18,863,697	13,277,740
1824	590,525	21,931,186	14,057,486
1825	953,358	42,383,718	13,165,729
1826	2,191,990	13,939,111	12,499,659
1827	2,433,668	27,957,241	13,452,913
1828	1,176,883	28,077,788	Not returned!

London, May 7, 1829.

such is the chief motive inducing them to wish for a free importation of foreign wool, in order to enable them to maintain a competition in the foreign marts; implying at the same time that this consumption of the finer foreign material, will cause a larger demand for the wool of native growth. We are willing to admit that this may be partly true; but certainly not to the exaggerated extent, stated by some of the witnesses who were examined before the Parliamentary Committees. To hazard the monstrous assertion, that we have "no British wool fit to make liveries, or clothing for slaves," must surely, one would imagine, utterly defeat the object of those who resorted to it. We have ourselves seen, and know that they may be had in any quantity, cloths made of undoubted British wool only, which we think few farmers or tradesmen would refuse or hesitate to wear, and which are unquestionably suitable to all persons in the middle classes of society. And this fact could scarcely fail to be known to many of those Noblemen and Gentlemen, who heard the very extraordinary evidence given, to which we have just alluded.

We are disposed nevertheless to concede, that the climate of Great Britain, generally speaking, is not congenial to the growth of the finest qualities of wool; that is to say, that such wool

cannot be produced without so considerable an additional expense, in consequence of the great care and attention, and the buildings, &c. which would be absolutely necessary, that the sale of such wool would not remunerate the outlay; taking especially into consideration the fact, that such expensive modes of managing the Merino sheep, for the purpose of producing such qualities of wool, would unavoidably diminish the quantity of meat, and probably also deteriorate its quality, so far, at least, as our information at present extends with reference to that subject.

We therefore think, that if foreign wool of the finer qualities, valued at 2*s.* per pound, and upwards, were admitted free,—that is to say, at the nominal duty of 1*d.* per pound, such a measure would answer all the purposes which the woollen manufacturers and merchants have in view, according to their own statements, as it would give a free trade in that very description of wool, which they say they cannot do without, but which they allege they cannot obtain from the home growth. As, however, so large a proportion of the land of Great Britain is at present depastured by sheep, of which the greater part of the wool produced is of a much less valuable quality than the Spanish or Saxon, though the obtaining a re-

munerating price for it is vitally essential to the prosperity of the flock masters, a duty of 4*d.* per pound might be imposed upon all foreign wool below the value of 2*s.* per pound, if Government perceived any difficulty arising from an entire prohibition of the coarser kinds of foreign wool. This duty would, it is believed, raise the prices of the Continental wools of that description nearly to the level of those which are considered remunerating prices for the British wools of the quality (in its various shades and degrees,) above specified; and this, the British wool growers, heavily burdened as they are, for the purposes of the State, have a just right to demand for the protection of their property.

Nothing can be more clear, than that, without such a protection, the greater part of the short wools of England and Scotland must be utterly unsaleable; and the effect of this, in throwing a vast quantity of land out of cultivation, in reducing to a great extent the breeds of sheep, in very considerably raising the price of meat and of corn, and, in fact, in sterilizing vast tracks of land which have only been rendered fertile by means of sheep farming, has been already pointed out. All that is asked, is, a protection in the shape of a duty on the foreign commodity sufficient to prevent this accumulation of evil.

It has been already stated in the notices of several counties, that the sheep farmers are annually sacrificing their capital, in order to keep on their farms, in the hope of some favourable change; should this hope be dashed to the ground, they have no resource but to make the most of what little property they have left, and employ the produce in the best way they can, in order to derive from it a subsistence; it being too evident to admit of the slightest doubt, that, at the present rents and charges, they cannot obtain, not to say a profit, but even a living; and, in many instances, the land under such circumstances could not afford to pay any rent, nor could the proprietor make it in any way available to pay the expense of farming it.

The condition to which sheep farming is reduced, may be judged of from this circumstance, and which ought to be clearly understood, that, in stating the sum that remains for rent, after deducting the expenses of the management of the sheep, which is from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per acre, according to the number of head of sheep that the land will carry; it is only so stated, as it were, as a general term, the fact being, that out of this sum all the public burdens are to be paid, which reduces it to one half, and, in many situations, to a still less proportion. These charges, consisting of poor

rates, highway rates, and various others, (in Scotland, ministers' stipends, schoolmasters' salaries, county cess, &c.,) when substracted from the amount stated to remain for rent, leave but a very trifling sum, at the most 1*s*. and 3*d*. per acre, according to the average prices of some years past. And though from the little value of the mountainous lands, large districts, chiefly in Scotland, are often held by a single proprietor, yet the actual rent amounts to but little; and even that little cannot long be paid by the tenantry, if some protection is not given to the wool grower.

How, indeed, can it be considered possible for the tenants of sheep farms to go on and pay their rents, when it is a well known fact, that the wool in general produced in the North, is sold one half under a remunerating price; and even that of Lincolnshire, at full one third below that price which is justly held to be a remunerating one. It is true that the latter has in some degree upheld its prices, in consequence of the peculiar character of the wool, that of fineness and great length, which is produced by the sheep bred in Lincolnshire and some adjoining counties, and with which there is little or no foreign competition. The vast quantity, however, of other wools imported, has nevertheless affected the wool of these counties

by lowering the price, though not in the ruinous degree that it has operated in other parts of the kingdom.

To tell the wool growers that they have the privilege of exporting their wool for which they can find no market at home, is a mere mockery, it being well known that there is no foreign market where they have the slightest chance of selling it. The only quality of wool that under present circumstances is at all likely to be exported, is a small proportion of the finest long wool of Lincolnshire or Romney Marsh; but this will in truth be a very trifling compensation, (or rather none whatever,) for the loss of 35 per cent. in the value of the wool, that being the rate of the reduction of its prices in the home market, whilst, as already stated, the loss upon other British wools is full 50 per cent., without, (unless a protection is given by imposing a duty upon the foreign raw material,) the slightest chance of the least compensation.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

Mr. James Bischoff, having, in a pamphlet recently published on the wool question, embodied as it were all the arguments that have been urged on behalf of the woollen manufacturers and merchants, and against the wool growers, with reference to a free trade in wool, and the denial of a protecting duty to the British sheep farmer, we cannot omit the opportunity of noticing, in some detail, the assertions which he makes, and of endeavouring to answer them, and to shew that the facts which he puts forth in support of the conclusion which it is his object to sustain, do, in reality, prove the very reverse of what he maintains to be the result, and clearly establish the absolute necessity of protection to the British wool grower against foreign competition.

Mr. B., in his Preface, expresses great anxiety that the question should "be set at rest," seeming to consider, that the refusing any

protection to the wool grower while the manufacturer is protected, by means of duties on importation, against foreign competition, is a satisfactory mode of setting it at rest. We trust, however, that Mr. B.'s own conscience makes him aware that the question cannot rest as it is: and, doubtless, he is of opinion, that, at least, the evidence before the Parliamentary Committees, needed the aid of his talents to render it conclusive to the minds of those who are to be the sufferers. We hope, also, that the fears, or want of expectation, he expresses, as to his remarks having any influence upon the minds of "the Duke of Richmond or the Member for Sussex," will be still further increased and strengthened, in consequence of a host of landowners to whom the question is of still greater importance, taking that view of it which Mr. B. so much deprecates. We must, however, add, that any law or any subject, that will not stand the repeated test of the fullest investigation, rests, with regard to its intrinsic merit, upon a very insecure basis: nor, indeed, can there be a stronger ground for *prima facie* suspecting the unsoundness of a cause, than an unwillingness to meet, or a desire to stifle, inquiry.

In pages 8 and 9, Mr. B. says, "*The object stated was a tax on the importation of foreign*

wool; a tax, the imposition and propriety of which, was disavowed by His Majesty's Government, and therefore must have been intended, not for finance, not to supply the necessities of the State, but with the hope of advancing the price of British wool, or, in fact, of keeping up rents in certain districts;" and, further on, "*If the inquiry had taken place in the House of Commons, the Committee would have been much more general, and would have extended the inquiry into other subjects, bearing upon the price of wool and the policy of the measure. There are few men in the Upper House of Parliament acquainted with the details of manufactures, and the consequences which any check would have upon the dense population, to which they give employment and support; their large property, their early habits and education, lead the nobility to associate amongst themselves, or with the very highest classes of commoners, and when they do mix with the merchant and manufacturer, there is that inequality which puts their intercourse under restraint; and they have not the ordinary means of making themselves practically acquainted with their neighbours.*"

With regard to the first part of these observations, Mr. B. has used an argument which may be so easily turned against himself and the cause he advocates, that we are surprised it should have escaped him. If no measure, in

any way affecting the revenue, is to be brought forward in, or proposed to the Legislature, without the motives of those suggesting it being charged to be interested, what becomes of the independence of Parliament? and representation is in that case a mockery and a farce. But will the various descriptions of manufacturers, who so eagerly and anxiously prayed for protecting duties, (which, by the bye, tended to augment the revenue, without such an increase being sought by His Majesty's Government,) when Mr. Huskisson proposed his scheme of a qualified free trade, thank Mr. Bischoff for dragging forward an argument, which may be so forcibly turned against themselves? Undoubtedly they were right in seeking protection, but they surely will not venture to assert that the wool growers are wrong in pursuing the same course, protection against foreign competition being at least as necessary to the latter, as it could possibly be to the former. But will Mr. B. venture to assert, that the repeal of the duty on the wool imported, or rather, strictly speaking, the reduction of it from 6*d.* to 1*d.* per pound, was a financial measure of His Majesty's Government? and, if not, as it is well known it was not, what becomes of his argument, and of his, we must call them, unworthy insinuations? Why does not he arraign the motives of

those who urged the reduction of the duty? Because, of course, it would not answer his purpose. He would, probably, be very indignant, if the manufacturers were charged with interested motives, but why should such a charge be made against the proprietors and occupiers of land?

With regard to what is said by Mr. B. in another part of page 8, that the landed interest "*are represented in Parliament, to the injury of another class of subjects, the manufacturing interest,*" it is certainly not consistent with the fact; it being well known, that, at the present moment, nearly two-thirds of the House of Commons consist of members connected with the legal, military, or naval professions, or with the commercial and manufacturing interests. And as to the restraint of intercourse with Peers, it is also a notorious fact, to the truth of which hundreds have had opportunities of testifying, that there is less restraint in the intercourse between the noblest hereditary families of the kingdom, and the gentry and yeomanry, than with the newly created nobility, or persons possessed of large acquired fortunes. But it is an odious task to question, as Mr. B. does, the motives of, and assign interested ones to those Noblemen and Gentlemen with whose opinions he happens to differ: we are disposed

to give every credit to the members of both Houses of Parliament for acting conscientiously, and to the best of their judgment; and thus to attempt to drag forth their private interests, for the purpose of insinuating, that they were biassed by such motives, is not only totally unworthy of any man, but, more than any thing else, tends to shew the helpless weakness of a cause, for the support of which, such arguments, (if they can be so denominated,) are resorted to.*

Of this character are the insinuations made by Mr. B. against the Earl Stanhope; who, by the bye, with reference to this question, has no private interest to serve: but the noble Earl, it is true, attacked the woollen manufacturers in his pamphlet, and charged some of them with prevarication;—*Hinc Illæ Lachrymæ*, &c.

* "'Tis true indeed, that a considerable number of Merchants is always chose into the *House*; but then it has been observed, that, by the mutual opposition of those who are engaged in different interests, they rather puzzle than give light to the argument in debate. And, I must confess, I have usually found *Gentlemen* more ready to entertain right notions of *Commerce*, as it respects the advantage or disadvantage of the public, than most *Men in Trade;* few of whom, though otherwise well skilled in their own way, give themselves the trouble to look further than what concerns their *own particular interest.*"—*Mr. Joshua Gee, Merchant.*

Did not, however, the manufacturers invite the attack, and lay themselves open to it, by their conduct, and by the testimony which they gave? Did they not previously call for the tax being again laid on upon foreign wool, which caused the investigation? It is in truth only necessary to contrast their evidence, to shew decidedly that there was prevarication, (the term used by Lord Stanhope, and which appears to have given so much offence;) that is to say, what would have been so deemed in a court of law, and what would there probably have been held totally to discredit their testimony. Nor can it escape notice, that Mr. B. himself is perfectly aware of the contradictions in their evidence—or, otherwise, he would not have set up the awkward apology for them, which is to be found in page 11, as to their not maintaining "perfect coolness and collectedness." What, indeed, but a consciousness, that their case required this salvo, could have induced their advocate to set up such a defence for them? "Call you this backing your friends?" No hostility, of whatever bitterness of character, could have pointed a more deadly attack upon them, than this sustainer of their character has unconsciously done, in endeavouring to apologize for them.

It is not of course intended in these ob-

servations, to convey any insinuation, personally offensive to individuals; all that is meant is this, that the inconsistencies in the evidence of the woollen manufacturers, &c. before the Parliamentary Committees, were such, as fairly to allow of, and bear out the interpretation put upon them by the noble Earl, whose pamphlet has so much roused the ire of Mr. Bischoff. On the other hand, we think it would be difficult for Mr. B. to point out any material variations in the opinions of the agriculturists, whilst he could find none in the answers of any individual. This is at least something in favour of their cause, they being as much subjected to cross-examination (of which Mr. B. so highly complains) as the manufacturing interest.

In page 21, Mr. B. says, "*If, therefore, this point be established, if farmers have now land under cultivation, which could be so maintained solely by war prices; and while it altered the character of the country, and the food of the sheep, depriving them of the fine herbage of the Downs, and giving them turnips, and other green crops, with the weeds and thistles which are in corn stubble, thereby deteriorating their wool, which will be another subject of enquiry; they are now bearing the consequences of their own former excitement and speculation; and it might be best, that*

those lands should be thrown out of cultivation, and again become sheep pastures." Upon this passage, we may remark, that Mr. B. cannot have travelled far in search of information; had he only referred to Mr. Kirby Trimmer's pamphlet, he would have found that sheep may be kept on green food, that is to say, turnips, &c. without any pasture land; and such sheep too producing wool, selling at the rate of 3*s.* 6*d.* per pound; besides taking into consideration, the great benefit derived by the public, in consequence of land producing at least five times the quantity of mutton, by a large outlay, that could possibly be reared upon it, were it in Down or hill pasture. But we would advise Mr. B. to take a journey into Sutherlandshire, where the advice he gives, as to large districts of pasture, has been too keenly and extensively followed. As to the notion of deteriorating the wool, it is sufficient to observe, that it is a fact notoriously known to sheep farmers, that the wool improves in proportion to the general or constitutional helth of the animal.

Mr. B. says, in page 22, "*There can be no doubt, the fact is admitted by all,* and, let us add, lamented by all—*that the price of short wool is very low; but if, by giving the sheep, different food, they have increased the weight of the carcass, and also the weight of the fleece, it may appear that the*

farmer now gets more sheep per acre, taking the carcass and the wool together, than he used to do; but from their very expensive efforts to keep land under the plough, which never ought to have had a plough upon it, the land has been so changed from sheep pastures to arable, that the price of corn materially bears upon this question; to use a familiar phrase, 'what they lose in meal they gain in malt.'" He then gives the average prices of wheat, barley, and oats, in the years 1788, 1789, 1800, and 1812.

Mr. B. should at least have been fair enough, to have given the prices of wheat, barley, and oats, for the years 1827 and 1828, which would not a little have altered the complexion of his statement; as, according to his own shewing, the price of grain would have been found to be nearly reduced to what it was in 1788, notwithstanding the great additional burdens, which it is a notorious fact, have been since imposed upon the land, tripling, (in some instances more), those to which it was subjected in 1788, and the large capital which since that period has, it is equally notorious, been laid out upon the soil, as for instance to bring into operation the modern system of husbandry, in order to make it produce a greater quantity of human food. It is true that the price of corn "materially bears upon this question," but

how? To shew that both the corn grower and the wool grower must equally be protected against foreign competition, in order to enable them to bear up against the burdens which the Legislature has imposed upon them.

Mr. B. then says; "*The next class in order are the growers of long wool; but these have not much cause to complain of price.*" Does he consider a reduction of 30 per cent. in the price of long wool, as nothing material? We are perfectly aware that little or no long wool can be imported, but it is nevertheless true, that the large quantity, and the cheapness of foreign wools, have diminished the price of long wool; and every man of any experience in trade, of course well knows, that a similar effect is always produced by large importation.

He then proceeds to notice the rise in rents; but this it seems unnecessary to answer: it would be in the highest degree absurd to suppose, that agriculture alone should be stationary, whilst every other description of property was increasing in value. How could the present revenue of the country be by any possibility collected, or other heavy charges paid, if rents were now at the same rate, as they were 30 or 40 years back? And is it not perfectly clear, that if the proprietors of land are com-

pelled to reduce their rents, they have so much the less to lay out in articles of manufacture? What then can the manufacturers gain by a reduction of rents?

But next comes a fact, which we are certainly indebted to Mr. B. for putting forth; he says in page 23; "*The evidence contained in the Lords' Report, shows, that the stock of long wool is not larger than the ordinary demands of the manufacturers require, but that the stock of short clothing wool may be estimated at about two years growth, that it is almost altogether in the hands of the farmer, who, having been averse to submit to a reduction of price, has allowed his stock to increase; it appears, however, that the consumption is increasing.*" There cannot be a more decisive answer to Mr. B.'s own arguments, with reference to the injury done to the wool grower, than the fact which he himself thus alludes to, that the stock of long wool is not larger than ordinary, but that the stock of short wool is double!!! Can there be a clearer proof of the effect of importation? the long wools are not brought into this country, and therefore the home produce sells; but the short wools are unsaleable, because the home markets are glutted by a foreign commodity of a similar description. Here, in truth, lies the whole gist of the

argument; the fact, thus admitted by Mr. B., being conclusive and unanswerable against the cause which he advocates.

As a sort of salvo, however, Mr. B. almost immediately afterwards says, (page 25,) referring to the statement in Lord Stanhope's pamphlet,—that in many cases the farmers have three years stock of wool on hand, some even that of four years; "*His Lordship does not, in his Letter to the owners and occupiers of sheep farms, allude even to the evidence on the other side, which proves as clearly that the stock of wool is reduced, and is still reducing; nor does his Lordship intimate, that any farmers have sold their wool from distress, or the want of money. The farmers of Sussex are, generally speaking, men of property, many live upon their own estates; they have not only the means of holding their wool, but, contrary to the custom of every other trade, and to their own custom with respect to corn, if the buyer of wool does not go to them, they do not trouble themselves by going to the buyer; the farmer in Sussex may, therefore, have an accumulation,—and may say truly, that he has three or even five years stock on hand; whilst those acquainted with other counties, where the Farmer exerts himself to sell his wool, may state, with equal truth, that there is little stock on hand.*" The fact is, that neither the manufacturers, nor the

wool-buyers, possess the means of estimating the quantity on hand, equal to those which the farmers have, who are the holders: in speaking on this subject, almost all persons seem to set it down, that the farmer has no right to hold for a favourable market. Why such an opinion should be entertained, or why the doing so should be thrown in his teeth, as if he were committing some offence, we are utterly at a loss to comprehend. If it were necessary we could mention hundreds, who have been obliged to sell their wool through distress, and the want of money: no farmer indeed would retain a stock of wool, if he could obtain for it a remunerating price; and the large stock on hand decidedly proves, that the low price offered in the market is too ruinously low to allow of the wool being sent thither, unless in consequence of the pressure of distress, and the absolute necessity of converting it into money at whatever loss; on the contrary, mere common prudence dictates to the farmer the policy of holding it, in order to take the chance of a more favourable opportunity of being enabled to dispose of it at a better price.

The necessity of a duty upon foreign wools for the protection of our own wool, which was not formerly needed, appears clearly by the scale which Mr. B. himself gives; thus, in 1784,

the amount of importation was 1,602,174 pounds, whilst the value of woollens exported, was £3,544,160; and in 1818, the year preceding the imposition of the tax of 6*d.* per pound on wool imported, the importation of foreign wool was 24,749,570 pounds, whilst the value of exported woollens was £6,343,659. It is therefore most clearly proved, that while the increase in the importation of the foreign raw material was more than fifteen fold, the exports of woollen manufactures were not quite doubled in value; and thus it is evident, that a great loss was sustained by the country in the depreciation of the home grown wool, by means of the substitution in the home trade of the greater part of the foreign material thus imported. The effect of the duty of 6*d.* was proved by the diminution in the import of foreign wool, as from 1818 until 1825, the average amount of importation was reduced to 17,255,142 pounds; the average value of woollen goods exported during the same period, being £5,351,385. In 1825, after the duty was reduced to 1*d.* per pound, the foreign wool imported was no less than the enormous quantity of 43,795,281 pounds, whilst the exports of woollen manufactures did not reach in value £6,000,000; a sum which was often reached by our exports of this commodity, when the import of foreign wool was not above

5,000,000 pounds. It is undoubtedly through this excessive importation of cheap foreign wool, driving the commodity of home growth out of the domestic marts, that the price of British wool has fallen to what it was 40 years ago, when not one fourth of the burdens were sustained by the farmer, that now so heavily press upon him.

As to the argument attempted to be drawn from the diminution in the exports of woollen goods in favour of the reduction of the duty on the import of foreign raw wool, it is one of the most fallacious that could have been used; it being too clear to admit of a doubt that the difference in the profits of the home trade in favour of the manufacturers, must have greatly overbalanced this loss so much dwelt upon in the foreign trade; but this is carefully kept out of sight in making up the case of the manufacturers and merchants.

Mr. B. seems to ground almost all his opinions and observations upon the prices of South Down wool, but which only forms a small proportion of the wool of Great Britain. But with what reason can the attempts to improve the South Down wool be considered so extraordinary, as they are by Mr. B. in another part of his pamphlet? Would it be thought at all out of the common routine of

events for a manufacturer to expend £30,000., or £40,000., in improved machinery, for the purpose of rendering his merchandize more saleable? Why, then, should the fact of £3,000. being laid out in the purchase of rams by an eminent breeder, in the course (be it remembered) of his whole life time, for the purpose of improving the quality of his wool, be held forth as a means used to raise the price of wool to an artificial height? This is, in truth, noticing the mote in our neighbour's eye, and not seeing the beam in our own. The wool growers do not of course expect high war prices, but only those which can fairly be considered as remunerating ones, and which the present rates of value are certainly very far from reaching.

When we consider the whole value of exported woollens, and look at the quantity of the raw material, the exaggerated notions of Mr. B. with regard to foreign trade, become reduced to their proper dimensions. We have no hesitation in asserting, that there is no article of any importance of British growth which has fallen in value in an equal proportion to wool; the diminution being, generally speaking, 50 per cent. below a remunerating price. Can it be otherwise expected, than that the wool growers should grievously complain of such a fall in the value of their produce? especially when the

cause of the fall is too evident to be for a moment disputed, namely, the repeal of the duty imposed upon the importation of foreign wool. With regard to articles not of British growth, and where, consequently, there is no home competition, but the fall in the prices of which is subsequently noticed by Mr. B., they have nothing whatever to do with the argument; but as he has chosen to drag them forward, we may observe, that he has not shown, nor is it possible he can show, a fall in their prices equal to that in the value of wool. And as Mr. B. has chosen to speak somewhat contemptuously of what he pleases to call the *ipse dixit* of the Sussex farmers, with reference to the price of wool, we will just inform him that 1*s.* 6*d.* per pound is not one farthing more than a remunerating price, and that we doubt whether they have not under-rated it.

In page 28, Mr. B., after speaking of speculations in the shipments of woollens, in 1823, says, "*When that unnatural demand ceased, the price of wool fell, and continued to fall till* 1824, *when our exportation of woollens had so much decreased, and the price of wool had fallen so much, that it was found necessary to reduce the tax to* 1d. *per pound.*" The answer to this is a decisive fact; the exportation of woollens in 1824, amounted in value to

£6,147,454.; that is to say, a larger sum than it had reached during several previous years, or than it had amounted to in the years succeeding; the trade in woollens, therefore, was not lessened, nor has it been increased by reducing the duty to 1*d.* per pound.

Mr. B. in page 29, remarks, "*It will, therefore, be apparent, that, whatever tends to decrease foreign demand must injure the English wool grower, and whatever tends to increase that demand will be advantageous to him.*" This would be true, if the loss and injury arising from the depression in the prices of the raw material, did not greatly overbalance the increased trade in woollens exported; nor is any increased trade made manifest that can at all bear out such an argument. He then goes on to say, "*It was stated in the House of Representatives of the United States of America, that they were willing to pay the English for labour, but would not pay their taxes. From that period, at which the duties on the importation of British manufactures were increased, they began to manufacture for themselves. The first importation of wool into Massachusetts Bay, was in* 1820, *the year subsequent to the imposition of the wool tax; and their woollen manufactures have gradually increased, and become an extensive trade.*" We might just as well say, that, in order to be ena-

bled to pay our own taxes, we cannot afford to pay American, or any other foreign labourers, for those articles which we can produce at home. But we chiefly notice this argument, on account of its absurdity and total inapplicability: who is there that does not know that it is, and has been for some time past, a favourite object with the American Congress, to encourage their own manufactures, by means of what? —by means of protecting duties on the manufactured articles of this and other countries—duties, in many cases, amounting, in point of fact, to prohibitions. Mr. B. must surely be hard driven for an argument when he alleges the American tax upon British woollen manufactures to be a consequence of the British tax upon foreign wool; as he could scarcely fail to know, that it merely formed a part of a regular system of policy, upon which the Government and the majority of the legislature of the United States, have, for a considerable period, been uniformly acting.

In page 31, Mr. B. gives the following statement;—

Years.		Importation of Wool. *Pounds.*		Exportation of Cloth. *Pieces.*
1816	....	7,517,886	....	638,368
1817	....	14,061,722	....	467,221
1818	....	24,749,570	....	478,378
1819	....	16,100,973	....	446,872
1820	....	9,789,020	....	340,044
1821	....	16,632,028	....	288,228

He then says, (page 32,) "*Is it possible to look at that statement, and not see that the price of British wool must be depressed quite as much by the reduced exportation of cloth, as by the increased importation of wool? If the increased importation had the effect which Mr. Ellman has stated, (in his explanatory evidence,) reducing the price of the raw material, it would have increased the foreign demand for cloth, provided no other circumstances operated upon it; but the* real fact *was, as has been before stated, that the tax glutted the continental markets with low foreign wools, enabled the foreign manufacturer, at reduced prices, to supply foreign markets with cloth, thereby checking the demand for British goods.*" An opinion directly contrary to what is here expressed by Mr. B. appears to be the only conclusion that can be fairly drawn from his own statement. It is abundantly evident, from the statement itself, that the increased importation of foreign wools, *never* produced an equivalent or proportionate increase in the export of woollen manufactures; and, therefore, we maintain that Mr. Ellman's opinion remains uncontradicted, namely, that the prices of British wool were depressed, through the effect of the large importation of the foreign raw material. At any rate, the *real fact* proves, what was denied by many of the manufacturers, &c. in their evi-

dence, that low foreign wools were imported in great quantities into England, as, of course, if the continental market was glutted with them in consequence of there being no British demand for them, they must have been previously supplied here, or the difference would not have been perceptible, or worthy of remark.

A little further on, Mr. B. says, "*The increased importation of wool, in* 1818, *probably arose from the very short importation of* 1816 *and* 1817." The fact is, that the importation of 1816 and 1817, was equal to the average of preceding years: the increase, therefore, in 1818, cannot be thus "accounted for in a natural way:" but it is very clearly accounted for by the knowledge that a duty of 6*d.* per pound was to be imposed upon foreign wool imported. And what does Mr. B. admit, with reference to this part of the question, he says, that the manufacturers and wool importers, when the Bill for imposing the duty was in progress, (it having been brought into the House of Commons the 14th June, 1819,) "*represented to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that they had wools* then upon the sea? *and also wool already purchased in* Spain, Germany, the shores of the Mediterranean, and South America, *part of which was of so* low a quality *that it could only be sold* even at 6*d.* per pound, *and, consequently,*

they must, upon the ships arriving in the Thames, either throw that wool overboard, *or endeavour to find some other market for it.*" The result was, that *time was given*, with regard to the commencement of the duty. This very fully and clearly explains the cause of the increased importation; the fact being, that the manufacturers and wool importers were not "taken by surprise," but had, for some time, been preparing for what they had every reason to believe would be carried into effect.

Mr. B. then proceeds to make a most unjust assertion, which it would have been much more creditable to the cause he advocates to have spared: he says, (page 33,) "*There can only be one opinion as to the injustice of the intention of the agriculturists; blind to every thing except what they thought their own interest, they were endeavouring to obtain a tax ruinous to the wool importers, without giving them a chance of escape from its effects.*" This accusation is, perhaps, best answered by asking two questions: First, whether the agriculturists do not defray the largest share of the burdens of the State? And, secondly, whether it is possible they can continue to do so, if their produce is rendered unsaleable except at a loss? And when the fact is notorious, that there are vast tracts of land in Great Britain, fit for nothing else but

the growth of low priced wools, we trust that the Government and the Legislature will recognise the absolute necessity of either imposing a duty on foreign wools of that description, or, on their arrival, of "throwing them overboard."

In page 34, Mr. B. says, "*The low price of South Down wool is accounted for, and that most naturally and clearly.*" We say so too; but how? In consequence of the large importation of foreign wools.

Mr. B., in page 37, quotes the evidence of Mr. Varley, that the yard of cloth, of the quality selling for 5*s.*, was cheaper by one-third than it had been three years before; and, in page 38, remarks, that the "*fall in the price of cloth, is in almost the same ratio as the fall in the price of wool, notwithstanding that labour constitutes about one-half the price of cloth, and that the price of labour is maintained by the* monopoly of corn, *which is given to the landed interest,* the profit, therefore, to the master manufacturer is considerably less than it was in 1819. *It must, indeed, be in the recollection of Earl Stanhope, and of every Member of the Committee, what astonishment was expressed by their lordships at the low price of the different samples of cloth for inspection.*" Now the simple question in this case, is, whether the cloth made for the use of

the home trade, is, like the home grown wool, 50 per cent. cheaper than it was? We are certainly aware that a much thinner and finer cloth can now be produced than could formerly be afforded at the same price; but its real quality and durability are decidedly inferior. As to the pretended "monopoly of corn," it is only necessary to ask the question, for every one can give the answer, Was corn dearer in 1828, when the Committees sat, than in 1819? With regard to the astonishment said to have been expressed in the Committee, it is very easily accounted for; the noblemen who looked at the cloth not being probably aware of the vast difference between the manufacturers' prices, and those charged to them by their tailors.

In page 38, Mr. B. says, "*It appears established by the evidence, that the folding system is necessary, if light and upland soils are to continue arable, and that the South Down sheep are best adapted to that system of agriculture.*" He still seems to consider the South Down, as if it was the only breed worth notice; but the fact is, that they are not better adapted than the Leicester or Cheviots, or black-faced sheep; all of which are, in some parts of Great Britain, bred on the arable system: and, if the uplands were not continued to be managed according to their present mode of cultivation, there would

be so vast a deficiency of food in proportion to the population, that the price of agricultural produce would probably be trebled; and, if we are to believe Mr. Jacob's report, that we could not obtain a sufficient supply from the Continent, what must be the inevitable consequence?

In page 39, Mr. B., after accusing the farmer of carrying "*his plough upon lands where it ought not to have been seen,*" and destroying "*his pastures for fine wool sheep,*" says, "*If the land so converted from sheep pastures to arable, and now cultivated at an enormous expense, were left out of the question, and the import price of corn calculated upon the production of better land, the protecting duty, (if necessary at all,)* might *be much reduced, the South Down wool* might *again become finer, and the demand for it* might *increase, the price of corn would advance abroad, and with the advance of food there, so would be the advantages to the British manufacturer.*" These assumptions are altogether and entirely erroneous; it being well known, that the wolds of Lincolnshire, and parts of Berwickshire and Wiltshire, are cultivated by means of one-half the outlay, which is required by the lands of Sussex and other counties, that have been for ages under the plough. Thus, Mr. B.'s *might*-y expectations could not be realized, because they are

founded altogether in mistake. There is no doubt, did we purchase our corn from abroad, that the merchant employed in the foreign trade might send a part of his returns in manufactures; but this point, having previously discussed it in our former volume, it would be needless to dwell upon here. Further on, in the same page, Mr. B. says, "*A tax of 6d. per pound on the importation of foreign wool into England, threw British capital out of that trade, it left an article on the hands of the foreign wool growers, which was manufactured to compete with the English, and with the depreciation of foreign wool, a similar depreciation took place in English wool, the wool tax was repealed, British capital was again employed in it, and the price of foreign wool again advanced.*" If foreign wool was manufactured to compete with the English, as asserted by Mr. B., how happens it that there should be no great deficiency in our exports of woollens? The price of foreign wool would, of course, advance, on the repeal of the duty, in consequence of its finding a market; but there is no doubt that the same would have been the case with the wool of home growth, if a market had, in like manner, been found for it.

Mr. B., in page 40, says, "*Corn is low in*

Prussia, because, by the laws of this country, British capital is prevented from being actively employed in the corn trade; the low rate of wages, therefore, enables the Prussian manufacturer to meet the British manufacturer in open markets. Allow British capital again to be employed in corn whenever and wherever it is cheap, and it is reasonable to infer, *that similar effects will be produced as were produced in the wool trade; the price of corn might advance in Prussia, and scope be given to our manufacturers in every branch, who, by increasing prosperity, would increase the consumption of the produce of the soil."* Then, after contending that the corn laws are *"a part and parcel of this question,"* he says, *"it is, however, proved by evidence given before the Committee, that if the light and upland soils are to be kept in cultivation, the folding system is necessary, for manure cannot be conveyed to them by carts, they depend entirely upon sheep for it."* Further on, in the same page, and 41, he observes, *"Provided the relative price of corn here and there (the continent) is alike, it is* of little consequence *what the price is, the British manufacturer is not injured by the high prices of corn alone, but by the low price which his rival manufacturer in Prussia pays; and the nearer the wages of Prussia are made to approximate to*

the wages of England, the better it will be for England." Now, with regard to folding, there are certainly other methods besides that, of cultivating uplands, and those much less expensive than the old modes. But if, as Mr. B. argues, the Continental States are to be benefited by an increase in the prices of their corn and of their produce, it is most strange, that a contrary effect should, as he and his co-advocates of the same opinions, maintain, be produced at home, where at least four-fifths of all the British manufactures are disposed of: most strange, also, that the price of an article, to those who raise it for profit, should be of no importance, and that the diminishing the annual returns and capital of a country to the extent of £50,000,000., or £60,000,000., should be of *little consequence*. But what does Mr. B. mean by the relative price of corn being alike, and the assimilation of wages in Prussia and England? Does he wish this country to be reduced to the same degraded state, and the whole landed property of the kingdom to be mortgaged in the hands of merchants and Jews, whilst the mass of the population are suffering under the most wretched and abject poverty? It may appear harsh to put such a question, but such must inevitably be the effect, if a pre-

mium is given to the foreign corn grower, at the expense of the ruin of our own agriculturists.

Mr. B. then notices the selection of rams, respecting which it is only necessary to say, that if the most perfect are not continually selected, the sheep would very soon degenerate and return to the old stock, whatever the breed might have been. He afterwards says, (page 42,) "*This is the sum and substance of this division of the question, (the change in weight of carcass, quality of wool, &c.,) the interest of the farmer to increase the weight of the carcass of South Down sheep, by giving them food different from what they formerly fed upon. By converting the fine sweet herbage of the Downs to the succulent food produced upon arable lands, and the introduction of turnips and other green crops, with the increase of the weight of the carcass of the South Down sheep, the wool becomes stronger and coarser, less adapted for the purpose of carding, and the manufacture of cloth, but better adapted for the purpose of combing, and the manufacture of stuffs. This opinion is confirmed by Mr. Nottidge, a most respectable wool stapler, residing at Bermondsey; he has carried on that business since the year* 1792, *and speaks from experience: his opinion is, 'as far as my observation goes,*

whenever inclosures take place, and the land becomes better cultivated, they keep a better kind of sheep, a larger kind of sheep; and South Down sheep of a good size are always more marketable than a small size.' And prior to that he states, that 'he had purchased from one flock in the county of Sussex, since 1792, *up to the present time; that in the year* 1814, *there were* 14 *to* 15 *fleeces per tod; and they are now* 11½ *fleeces per tod; so that there is an increase of weight of about one third, and of course a deterioration in quality.'* "

With regard to increasing the weight of carcass if the sheep are crossed by a larger breed, this effect will of course take place; but it is altogether a mistake to suppose that good keep will deteriorate or change the quality of wool; on the contrary, it will increase the quantity of the yolk, and improve the softness and regularity of the fibre; undoubtedly a great desideratum in wools. We are not speaking here of rich and rank pastures, but of the good keep alluded to by Mr. B.; and nothing can be clearer than that his objection as to the wool being thus rendered coarser, is destitute of any validity. Does Mr. B. mean to assert, that, by feeding under any mode of modern management, (without a cross or change of breed,) that

South Down sheep have produced in this country *long wool,* or that the wool of the real South Down has changed to that length and coarseness, or *vice versa,* that Lincolnshire sheep by being put on mountain or Down land would produce *fine short wool;* if so, it is a fact in the breeding and management of sheep which we should much wish to have clearly established; for Mr. B.'s opinion, quoted previously, appears to us to allow that interpretation.

The sheep of North Wales have, in all probability, depastured upon the same mountains without any cross for successive ages; how is it then, if, as Mr. B. alleges, a deterioration in the quality of the wool is to be attributed *only* to the different mode of management by means of green food, that the wool of Merionethshire and Carnarvonshire should have fallen 70 per cent. in price, and actually 50 per cent. below the average of a number of years, and below that price which would be a remunerating one to the grower?

In page 43, Mr. B. says, "*It is also remarkable, that the weights of the fleece of long wool of Kent and Lincolnshire have decreased in weight by the cross with the Leicester sheep, whilst the fleece of the short wool sheep has uniformly increased.*" By means of the cross with the Leicesters, there

is no doubt, also, that the long wools of Lincolnshire have been rendered finer than they were with the old Lincoln breed.

To show that the wool in Lincolnshire, and in those counties where long woolled sheep are kept, has not deteriorated, it is only necessary to allude to the following well known fact; which at the same time proves, that the quantity has been much diminished in order to obtain the superior quality they now possess. Some years ago, previous to the introduction of the Leicester breed, the Lincolnshire sheep were called *two's*, that is to say, two fleeces to the tod, or 28 pounds; at present *three's* are generally considered a good weight, or three fleeces to the tod; which clearly proves a reduction in weight of one third; and it is equally matter of notoriety, that the wool is much improved in fineness, equality of fibre, and softness, and at the same time the weight and perfect points of the animal not diminished; we see no reason therefore that this may not be the case in other breeds of sheep.

In page 46, we find the following passages; "*By thus attending to the profit of the wool from weight, and to the profit of the carcass, the breeds of English sheep which produced the finest wool, are almost entirely extinct; the Ryland sheep are now scarce known.*" "*Looking particularly to this*

country, the wool appears to have been deteriorating from the period when it was first noticed in our records. In tracing the incidental mention of wool in the early periods of history, it is clearly established that the wool of Great Britain was formerly of a finer quality than that produced in any other part of the globe, but the deterioration has been gradually going forward." To say that the breeds of English sheep which produced the finest wool are almost entirely extinct, is manifestly absurd; the direct contrary being known to be the fact, by every one in the least acquainted with the different breeds, equally so is the assertion that the wool appears to have been deteriorating from the period when it was first noticed in our records! Indeed, the absurdity of this dictum is so glaring, that it only requires to be noticed to carry with it its own refutation. There is no doubt that this country formerly produced fine wool, and so it does now; but if it was "*of a finer quality than that produced in any other part of the globe;*" how happens it that we, for centuries back, imported fine wool from Spain to mix with our own cloths? It certainly does not follow because a certain proportion of the wool of this country, was, at an antecedent period, considered finer, or of a peculiar character necessary in the fabrics of foreign countries, than that of almost any other, that it should now be adjudged

deteriorated, from the circumstance of finer wool being produced in some of those States, where, at the period alluded to, it was not an object of pursuit. But the real question is, not with respect to fine wool, but with reference to coarse wool, upon which sheep farming must in so great a degree depend.

In page 48, Mr. B. notices the same fact to which we have alluded in our brief history, namely, the penalty attached in the reign of Henry II. to the mixing Spanish wool with English cloth; and then intimates, certainly not in a *liberal* spirit, the probability "*that the same spirit which gave rise to the investigation in the reign of George IV., influenced the aristocracy in the reign of Henry II.; that feeling may be hereditary in some noble families, and may have been handed down to the present day in its original purity.*" Now the plain simple truth is, that the purpose in the reign of Henry II. was, and that the invariable object ever since of the Government and the Legislature, until a late period, has been, to protect the home growth and the home produce against foreign competition; and the manufacturers of all descriptions know full well that a similar protection has constantly been extended to them, and of which they have immensely felt the benefits. Their advocate, therefore, might have spared his

sneer; what would have become of them had it not been for that very protection of which he is now so anxious to deprive the wool growers? There cannot be a more striking or convincing proof of the baneful effects of the repeal of the duty of 6*d.* per pound upon foreign wool, than the fact, that the year following that ill-advised measure, the home prices of our wool fell exactly in that proportion; that is to say, the wool that was 1*s.* 4*d.* per pound fell to 10*d.*, and other wools in proportion, and they have fallen still lower since. It is only necessary simply to state this fact, to make the injurious effects of the policy advocated by Mr. B. clear and palpable to every unprejudiced individual.

In page 63, Mr. B. says, "*The grower of South Down wool suffers, (if he can be said to suffer, when the quality of his wool is deteriorated, whilst the weight and price of his mutton are thereby improved,) more from the altered state of cultivation, than from depression of price, when quality is compared with quality, and price with price, betwixt the years when that mode of cultivation was introduced, and the present time.*"

On a reference made to a most intelligent work, by Mr. Luccock, a wool-stapler, at Leeds, on wool, published in 1809, we find, that the average weight of the short wool fleeces was considered, twenty years ago, to be three pounds

four ounces per fleece, and that of the long wools, seven pounds ten ounces. We are of opinion, that the averages of the fleeces produced in Great Britain, at the present time, o not amount to a greater weight than what is above specified, and, probably, not to so much. If, therefore, the introduction of the modern system of turnip husbandry had, by means of the mode of feeding, so considerably increased the weight of the fleece, as stated by Mr. B., and the advocates on the same side, would not such a result be rendered evident by this time, it being within that very period of twenty years, that the turnip and drill husbandry has so much increased? Could it, however, even be established, that the weight of the fleece has increased three or four ounces, throughout the kingdom, we should imagine, that such a difference may be easily accounted for, by the more regular and constant good keep, and consequent perfect state of the animal, which could not be the case under the old method, without resorting to artificial grasses and turnips in the spring of the year, as a reason for such a trifling increase of weight.

We may here also add, that, on an examination of the returns from the different counties producing the various qualities of wool, we find, that the quantity of short wool grown, exceeds

that of the long wool, by nearly one-third. This strongly militates against Mr. B.'s assertion, that the fine short wool is not grown in this country as it was formerly; and we have no hesitation in saying, that upon an examination made by any practical and experienced person, it will be found, that the wools generally, throughout every county, have improved within the period alluded to, and not deteriorated. It is certainly true, as we have already stated, that through the endeavours of the wool growers to increase the fineness of their wool, they have, by means of crosscs with the South Down, Merino, and other fine breeds, so far changed their short coarse woolled sheep, that they now send their wool to market as Down, Ryland, or Anglo Merino, though not justly entitled to these appellations; but, at the same time, undoubtedly far superior in quality to what it was antecedent to the introduction of such crosses. It is thus, that the wool merchants have been led to imagine that the wool is deteriorated; although, if they were only to refer to the quantities which are sold under those denominations, they would at once be convinced, that it was impossible there could be so large a produce of true wool of such descriptions, and they might thus correct and rectify the erroneous impressions which lead them to such mistaken conclusions.

Too much reference, as we have already observed, is made by Mr. B. to South Down wool, as if that was the only wool of any importance; there is no doubt, that from the proximity of this breed of sheep to London, the value of the carcass is considerably advanced; but there are millions of acres in Great Britain, upon which, or their produce, sheep are fed, where the value of the three, or, (as the case may be,) four clips of wool, will equal the value of the carcass, when full grown enough to sell. And, therefore, it is, that the great dependence of the sheep farmer is, and must be, upon his wool. In the next page, Mr. B. puts forth an insinuation against the Earl Stanhope, which would have been much better omitted, especially as it happens, that his Lordship is in no way whatever personally interested in the wool question; whilst, on the other hand, Mr. B., from his previously published opinions, and the dicta received from his Right Honourable friend, Mr. Huskisson, may not unjustly be supposed to have "pre-conceived opinions," (the phrase he applies to Lord Stanhope,) and to be *not a little* biassed by party and interested views.

In pages 79 and 80, we find the following important admission; "*If a country produce sufficient wool, and not more than sufficient, to give clothing to its own population, and have no export*

trade, a tax on the importation of the foreign material might prevent it from coming into competition with the native material, and keep up the price of wool to the advantage of the grower. That might be the effect, and I shall at present avoid giving an opinion upon the equity or policy of such a measure. If, however, a country produce more wool than is sufficient to clothe its own population, and depends upon the exportation, either in its raw or its manufactured state for consumption, the effect of a tax on the importation of wool might lessen the demand, prevent the consumption of native wool, and reduce its price; and if foreign be necessary to mix with native wool, for the purpose of making saleable cloth, a tax on foreign must reduce the price of native wool. This, I conceive, is the present state of this country at present."

Thus, it is expressly admitted, as if per force, that an advantage would accrue to the growers, by a tax upon the importation of foreign wool, in order to prevent it from successfully competing with the article of domestic produce in the home consumption or trade.

Now, it being well authenticated, that four-fifths of the whole wool, both domestic and foreign, are consumed at home, it is clear, that it must be a great loss to the growers to introduce foreign wool without an adequate duty. Were the contrary the case, only one-fifth of

the whole being consumed at home, and four-fifths being exported, the features of the argument would of course be greatly changed, and there might be some ground for allowing a free import; but it must be evident to every impartial observer, that as the case stands, there is an abundance of wool grown in Great Britain, sufficient not only to supply our own wants, but if due encouragement were given, also for exportation.

And with regard to the second case Mr. B. puts, that of the export trade, it being rendered decisively clear, that our exports of woollens have not increased in any proportion whatever to our import of the raw material, we have an undoubted right to say, and to found the assertion upon Mr. B.'s own admission, that such importation is highly injurious to the home grower.

With regard to the import of fine wools, for the purpose of mixing with our native raw material, we admit, that this may, to a certain extent, be expedient, as we cannot produce those finer descriptions of wool, without incurring too great an expense, and perhaps too much deteriorating the carcass: but we can only admit this, provided other native wools, which we can grow, are protected against foreign competition. As to the price of the na-

tive raw material being reduced by means of a tax on the introduction of the foreign commodity, it can only happen in this way,—that by an excessive importation, in the contemplation or expectation of such a duty, the price of native wool might, for a year or two, be reduced; but that a tax on the foreign commodity should have the effect of lowering the price of the same article of home growth, is contrary to all reason and all experience; it must indeed be evident, that this temporary cause of the fall in the price of wool, must, in the natural course of events, soon yield to the general law by which the markets are governed; a greater demand for British wool, which must be the effect of raising the price of the foreign commodity of similar quality, would of course raise the prices also of the articles of home growth.

With regard to the exports and imports, we find it necessary to give the following passages from pages 80 to 85, in order to found upon them a few remarks. From the Appendix to the Report of the Committee of the House of Lords, Mr. B. gives the following returns;—

	Pounds.
"*Foreign wool imported in* 1828	29,142,290
"*English wool exported in* 1828	278,552

"*The obvious conclusion which would be drawn from this return, is, that the export is a mere trifle, of no consequence whatever; but if this return had been made, as it ought to*

have been made, it should have embraced all the wool exported, raw, in yarn, and manufactured; that would have shewn the real weight of the import and export of wool. I have endeavoured to make such a table, but have found it impossible to bring it to a satisfactory result, so as to give a correct idea."

Mr. B. however, gives the following;—

		Pounds.
" *Weight of woollen manufactures, and wool, exported in the year, ending the 5th of January,* 1828		47,035,071
	Pounds.	
" *Importation of foreign wool*	29,142,290	
" *Weight of foreign woollens imported, (value £10,000.)*	1,000,000	
		30,142,290
		16,892,781
" *And, as four-fifths of the wool imported is for home consumption, it will amount to*		23,313,832
" *Which will make the weight of British wool exported*.....		40,206,613

" *The British wool grower is, therefore, dependent upon foreign orders for the consumption of that quantity of wool, which is about one quarter of his production; and, consequently, any check to the exportation of woollens, and wool, must be severely felt by the wool grower. The manufacturer feels it first by his reduced orders; but, as his purchases of wool decrease with his orders, the farmer feels it the most by the accumulation of his produce."*

" *The wool tax decreased the exportation of woollen goods, whilst the exportation of worsted goods, not being affected by the tax, increased."*

Mr. B. then gives, from the return to the House of Commons, an analysis of official tables, "relating to the exportation of woollen and worsted manufactures, in four years, preceding the tax of 6*d.* per pound on foreign wool—in four years during the continuance of that tax—and in four years after the repeal of that tax;" and then proceeds to observe;

"*The brief result of this analysis is, that in four years,*

	Pieces.
"*The woollen trade, when taxed, decreased*	735,167
"*The worsted trade, untaxed, increased* ..	845,391
"*In the four years since the reduction of the tax, the woollen trade has increased* ..	105,021
"*The worsted trade has also increased*	1,118,641

"*And if the raw material is allowed to come in without tax, the woollen trade will probably increase in the same rate.*

"*The difference betwixt the table of the House of Lords, and the above table, is as follows:—*

	Pieces.
"*Decreased exportation of woollens during the tax, according to the Report of the House of Lords*	82,841
"*Actual decreased exportation of woollens in that period*	735,167 ! ! !
"*An average annual decrease*	183,798 ! ! !

"*The declared value of exportation of woollens, in the same period, is equally fallacious.*

"*There are two modes of giving the value of trade at the Custom House.*

"*Official value is the measure of quantity. Declared value is the measure of amount exported.*

"*The rate of official value never varies; it is the same that it was in* 1696.

"*The declared value fluctuates according to the real value of the articles exported.*

These passages having reference to the same branch or division of the subject, we have thus given consecutively, in order that they may be fairly appreciated; but with regard to his own statement of the exports and imports, we are totally unable to comprehend, why four-fifths of the wool imported for home consumption, should be added to the weight of wool exported: nor what purpose such a statement is intended to answer. It, however, discloses a most important fact, not exactly in unison with the arguments which it is the object of Mr. B. to maintain: if four-fifths of the wool imported are for home consumption, and this is expressly admitted, and so stated by Mr. B., is it not evident, that the object in obtaining foreign wool at a nominal duty, is not for the purposes of foreign commerce, but to oust the article of domestic growth from the home trade?

Under such circumstances, what a gross absurdity is it to say, that the British wool grower is dependent upon foreign orders for the consumption of one fourth of his produce? It is admitted, that upwards of twenty-three mil-

lions of pounds in weight of foreign wool are introduced into this country for home consumption; and in the next sentence it is gravely stated, that the home grower is dependent upon foreign orders for the consumption of one fourth of his wool! Can there be a more glaring inconsistency? Is it to be wondered at, that the farmer feels distress in consequence of the "accumulation of his produce," when his wool is driven from the home market by the great importation of foreign produce; and he has not, nor can have, any foreign orders, to take it off his hands? But it is alleged, that the wool tax decreased the exportation of woollen goods: our answer to that is, that the decrease was nothing near, or approaching even to the diminution of the incomes of a great number of individuals, growing, or connected with the growth, of wool, to the gross amount of between £4,000,000. and £5,000,000., in consequence of the price of native wool being reduced 50 per cent. below a remunerating price, through the effect of the introduction of untaxed foreign wool. Nor can we refrain from expressing our surprise, that men accustomed to business should so continually lose sight of the true principles of trade, connected, and intimately interwoven as they are with home consumption. Merchants engaged in foreign com-

merce, seem oftentimes to think that the concerns of their trade are exclusively, or almost so, the object of national attention, forgetting that the great mass of the wealth of the State arises from the gradual accumulation of profits accruing from the trade within itself. With regard to the long wools, from which are manufactured the worsted goods, the fact is, that they are not to be obtained abroad, and consequently the exportation of them will continue, as well as the use of them in the home consumption, nor can any statement respecting these articles, in the least avail Mr. B.'s side of the question; it is, however, undoubtedly true, as before stated, that the prices of these wools have been much diminished through the excessive importation of the foreign raw material causing a glut in the markets. With respect to the laboured calculations regarding the alleged differences at certain periods in the export of woollens, they in reality prove nothing; the difference being so trifling, that it cannot for a moment be put in comparison with the utter ruin inflicted upon the home growers through the effect of the admission of untaxed foreign wool. Suppose the foreign trade to be decreased £1,000,000. in consequence of the tax, what is this compared with the loss of between £4,000,000. and £5,000,000. in the home trade and consumption, arising from

there being no tax on the foreign commodity? If almost every article of foreign make were not taxed, what would become of the home manufactures? And does not the same argument still more strongly apply to the home produce of the soil?

In page 86, Mr. B. says, "*As during the continuance of the tax, the worsted trade, the cotton, the silk, and every other branch, increased, and the woollen trade alone decreased, must it not be evident that there was a pressure upon the woollen trade which did not extend to any other, and no pressure except the wool tax fell peculiarly upon the woollen trade; the effect, therefore, of the duty in England was injurious to the manufacturer by reducing his exports to the wool grower, by reducing the demand for his wool.*" Surely Mr. B. does not mean to assert that there was no tax with reference to the silk or the *worsted* trade, or other branches which increased; that is to say, upon the introduction of foreign articles of similar manufacture, because he must know the contrary. To what then does the argument amount, of the tax on wool being the cause of the decrease of the trade? But the truth is, that he only makes out an apparent decrease, by dividing and separating from each other the different manufactures of wool; had he not resorted to this stratagem, (for such we must call it,) it would

have appeared from his own figures, as it must now to any one who takes the trouble of looking them over, that there has been, in point of fact, no decrease whatever in the whole trade.

In page 87, Mr. B. says, "*The quantity of wool grown in Great Britain, is, according to evidence, increased at least one third; the importation of foreign wool has increased; and from the increased extent of population, and mills in the manufacturing districts, I think it would not be going beyond the bounds of probability in estimating the extent of the woollen manufacture, at present, at upwards of thirty-two millions; the annual average exportation of woollen manufacture was, till the last two years, about six millions, and consequently the foreign trade is now about one fifth of the whole. The question will naturally arise, why has not the foreign trade kept pace with the home trade? The reason will appear in this investigation, the French proverb might with great propriety be applied to it—*

'*Laissez nous faire.*'

If this maxim had been followed, and the raw material allowed to come in untaxed, the foreign trade in woollens would probably have continued to maintain its high rank." If this would be the result, and it being a well known fact that the manufacturers and merchants had for nearly 20 years a free importation, or nearly so, of

wool; *laissez nous faire*, was for that long period completely with them, how happens it that they did not increase the foreign woollen trade? But it will be seen, on a reference to the years, that in 1790 the exportation of woollens amounted in value to £5,190,637., and in 1810, to £5,416,149., whilst in some of the intermediate years it was less. What becomes, then, of this idle boast of *laissez nous faire?* The fact is, that the great increase has been in the home trade; and that *probably*, nay, we may say certainly, will continue to increase, if due protection is afforded to the wool grower. We may be allowed to return Mr. B.'s quotation—

"Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes."

In page 88, speaking of the change which is alleged to have taken place in the demand for the finer articles of manufacture, Mr. B. says; "*That such change has taken place, must be obvious to the most superficial observer; and this may have arisen from two causes, the reduced price of all raw materials, which, so far as they go, are in reality an increase of wages, as with the same wages the lower classes are enabled to buy either a larger quantity or a better quality; or it may arise, from the discernment of all classes, who discover, that the cheapness of an article does not depend upon the lowness of the price alone, but upon the wear and*

durability of that article, as compared with the price; they find, that for the purpose of clothing, cloth made from fine wool, and well wrought, at a high price, *is eventually cheaper to them than cloth made of coarse wool, and ill wrought, at a low price; the same principle extends to every other article of manufacture, and the consequence is, that looking to relative prices of fine and coarse raw materials of every description, wool, cotton, silk, and flax, the fall of price has been in the lowest qualities.*" "*It is, therefore, evident, that the working classes in this country are better clothed than formerly.*" Now, there is no fact better known to every one, than this, that the fineness of articles does not always produce those essential qualities which Mr. B. enumerates; nor do we believe that there are any articles now manufactured, possessing the durable texture and quality, which marked those of former times. We, consequently, very much doubt, that there is any real benefit derived from this source to the middle, or lower classes. Can any one say, that a modern flimsy silk handkerchief, is equal to the fine and durable silks, that were manufactured about thirty years ago? The same question may be asked, and it must be answered by a similar negative, as to the carpets and other goods, made from continental woollen rags imported, which, though presenting a

fine appearance, will not wear a tenth part of the time, that articles of similar use made in former times would have lasted. They are thinner, and may be called finer, but they are certainly not better.

Mr. B., proceeding in the same strain, as to coarse articles being superseded by finer, says, in page 89; "*But this is not confined to articles of clothing; it extends to food; the oaten bread is superseded by wheaten bread; and the consumption of tea, sugar, and coffee, has had a similar effect on prices; the better qualities have fallen the least per centage in price.*" This is by no means clear to those who visit the interior of great manufacturing towns, for we believe they soon become fully convinced, that the approximation to gentility in the dress of the lower classes, has *not* by any means increased their comforts, or the durability of their clothing. Ask an old man of seventy, what time he used to wear a coat? And ask a young one how long a coat lasts? The difference would be too striking, not to make an impression upon the mind of the most careless observer. It is in truth greatly to be lamented, if there is no means of preventing the introduction of the finer foreign article, to the detriment of the sterling wear of good English cloth. As to oaten bread, it is well known that it is consumed in all the northern parts of

Great Britain, in the same manner that it was formerly: it is true, that a few years ago, when wheat was comparatively cheaper than oats, oaten was, to a certain extent, superseded by wheaten bread; but this was only for a time, and the former again took its place as a regular article of consumption. Mr. B. says, in page 89, "*Similar changes have taken place in several States of Europe, and such must be the consequences of such wars as we have witnessed. The Romans, in their conquests, carried along with them improvements in arts, comforts, and luxuries; the armies of England and France made known to every quarter of the globe the comforts they had left at home.*" This is by no means correct; the Romans invaded countries inhabited by barbarians, whilst the armies of England, under the greatest leader of their country, carried their victorious arms amongst nations as civilized as themselves; but the paysans of France were certainly, during the career of Bonaparte, very little acquainted with the luxuries of superfine clothes, tea, sugar, or coffee. With regard to the prices of articles, before alluded to by Mr. B., it is clear, that the really good commodity must fetch its price; but what may be called the fictitious article, and of course inferior, sells at a lower

rate, because it is not in reality what it pretends to be.

Mr. B., in page 91, speaking of the past and present value of cloths, says; "*The past value of cloth manufactured was almost solely from English wool. The present value cannot well be estimated. In carpets and coarse woollens, the wools of Ireland, South America, Russia, Denmark, and the Mediterranean, are used, which enable the manufacturers to make a cheaper article; the wools of Germany and Spain are mixed with British wool, to make a finer and better article; more saleable, because more suitable to present taste, than could be produced from British wool alone; and the importation of all is necessary, not only for the continuance of our woollen manufactures, but for the consumption of that English wool, which would not, at the present day, be used without being mixed with foreign. If the importation be checked or prohibited, as the power of the House of Lords cannot extend across the British Channel, the manufactures will be carried on by our opposite neighbours; and England, as well as distant markets, will be supplied from Prussia, Germany, and France. The British wool grower will have to depend upon the foreign manufacturer for the sale of his wool.*"

The *cheaper article*, of which Mr. B. speaks in the first part of this paragraph, it may be truly said, is bad enough. Fine wool has generally, if not always, been used for the superior woollens; and, therefore, the phrase, "more suitable to present taste," conveys an erroneous idea; as it might be supposed, from the way in which it is used, that it had only been discovered, as it were, yesterday, that fine wools were necessary to manufacture superior woollens; a fact, which in the course of a long series of years, has become too much a matter of notoriety, to require "present taste" to be lugged in to sustain it. As to the British wool grower depending upon the foreigner for the sale of his wool, it can only be in this way, namely, to the extent that the foreign purchaser takes of our woollen goods; and if the amount of this export were diminished one half, that diminution would not be equal to the value of the quantity of foreign wool which we now import. How then is it possible, that the interests of the British wool grower can be injured by reducing the amount of such importation? On the contrary, is it not obvious from Mr. B.'s own shewing, that it is the excessive importation of foreign wool which causes his ruin? In the years preceding 1826, our exports exceeded our imports; whilst it will

be seen, by a reference to the Parliamentary Documents of Customs, that in the years 1826 and 1827, ending January, 1828, our *imports increased* three to four millions; while, within the same period, our *exports decreased* seven to eight millions.

In pages 93 and 94, Mr. B. quotes the evidence of Mr. Gott and Mr. Cooke, from which it appears, that some foreign wool is purchased at the low price of *twopence halfpenny per pound*, that the highest price is *sevenpence three farthings per pound*, and that the average price is *fivepence three farthings per pound*. He then says, (it having been stated, that Mr. Gott makes a finer cloth from foreign wool, at a higher price, and Mr. Cooke a low description of goods,) "*Mr. Gott buys foreign wool suitable to his manufactures, and thereby makes cloth fit for the nobility and higher classes; or, mixed with English wool, suitable for foreign markets. Mr. Cooke buys foreign wool suitable to his orders; and, whether manufactured by itself, or mixed with English, makes articles, which, by their low price, are suitable for foreign orders, and for negro clothing.*" He then observes, "*Each must study the taste and wishes of his customers; and though it may appear strange, it is nevertheless true, that taste equally governs the purchases of the lower, as the higher classes in society; and these tastes*

must be attended to, or articles would be made which could not be sold; and unless Mr. Gott were to import foreign wools, though they might interfere with South Down wool produced in England, and Mr. Cooke were to import coarse foreign wool, though they might interfere with Scotch wool, they would be obliged to abandon the manufacture altogether; and as it is quite true, that the use of foreign wool is necessary to make cloth suitable for foreign and home markets, so it follows, that the more foreign wool is imported, the greater will probably be the consumption of English wool."

Here we have the important fact most distinctly admitted, that the low wools, which he acknowledges have so much accumulated in the hands of the growers, for want of a vent, are entirely superseded in the home manufactures, by the use of inferior wools of foreign growth. It is given in evidence, and expressly affirmed, that these foreign wools are used to the exclusion of the native commodity, in manufacturing inferior woollen goods. Surely this fact is unanswerable. Here lies the very gist of the question. It is not here attempted to be denied, that the *finer* foreign wools are necessary to the manufacturer; but is it not evident, from the testimony of the manufacturers themselves, that the *necessity* of using inferior foreign wools

would never have been discovered had it not been for their cheapness? Where is the British wool grower to look for the sale of his accumulating stock, if he is thus driven out of the home market by the untaxed admission of the cheaper foreign commodity? It is really insulting his distress, to say, "*That the more foreign wool is imported, the greater will probably be the consumption of English wool;*" as every one must see, at a glance, that this is utterly impossible. Is it to be wondered at, that the stock of wool increases on the hands of the British grower, or that the price is ruinously low, when we thus see, that foreign wool is used for coarse goods as well as for fine, to make negro clothing, as well as suits for noblemen and gentlemen? We did not know before, that the *taste* of the negro was consulted as to his clothing: this is truly a climax in sentimental refinement; but surely such an argument will not be very convincing, nor will the fact itself, we imagine, be very readily believed.

Mr. B., in page 95, says, "*The importation of wool has, in every instance, either improved the fabrics, which we formerly made from British wool, or enabled the manufacturers to produce a cheaper article.*" This is attempting to propagate error, under the semblance of truth: there is no doubt, that by the aid of the finer foreign

wools, superior woollens may be manufactured: it is equally clear, that by means of the low priced coarse foreign wools, the manufacturer may produce a cheaper article; but by coupling together these two assertions, and using the words "every instance," an argument is set up, which is not in the slightest degree tenable for the purpose for which it is used: the alleged improvement only shewing the want of the finer foreign wools, whilst the *cheaper* articles are notoriously so bad, that they are, in point of fact, much dearer in the end, than similar assortments of articles made from British wool. In the same page, and 96, Mr. B. states, that "*Cotton is, in some cases, mixed with wool in manufactures of baize, flannel, and waistcoating; not having the felting property, it can only be introduced into the goods of thin fabric, which do not require much fulling or milling, and cannot, therefore, become general.*" Unfortunately for the buyers and wearers of such fraudulent articles, we believe this statement to be too true: we say fraudulent articles, because they are pretended to be what they are not; and the buyers, after they have worn or used them a short time, discover that they have been egregiously deceived.

In pages 96 and 97, we are introduced to another fraudulent practice; Mr. B. says;

"*The use of rags in the woollen manufacture commenced about sixteen years ago, when the price of wool was very high; it has grown up to a trade of some importance, and in its various processes gives employment to the very lowest classes; the collection of linen rags is necessary for the paper trade, and woollen rags are collected at the same time; they are sent into Yorkshire, where women are employed to sort them; the seams of old clothes are cut off, and with such parts as cannot be used in manufactures, are sent to the hop plantations in Kent, Sussex, &c.; whilst those parts, capable of being re-manufactured, are torn into pieces by machinery, and reduced again into a sort of wool. It appears from the evidence of Mr. Nussey, that the quantity of rags, so used, amounts to about* 9,000 *packs, of which one-eighth are imported: they enable the manufacturer to give a cheap article.*" It would be strange, indeed, if such articles were not cheap; but, in truth, such a species of re-manufacture ought to be prohibited by law: it injures our foreign trade, and brings our woollen goods into disrepute; and how can it be otherwise, when the rottenness of such fabrics, made from old rags, has become matter of notoriety?

Mr. B., in page 102, says; "*In point of weight, the exportation of wool from Great Britain, in its manufactured and raw state, is about double the weight of the wool im-*

ported: if, therefore, any legislative enactment, whether it have the effect of advancing the price of food, or advancing the price of raw materials here,—or, which is the same, reducing the price of food, and of the raw material, to foreigners, prevents the exportation of woollen manufactures, that law must reduce the price of English wool.*" This is supposing, that the price of wool entirely depends upon a foreign trade for our woollens, which is certainly not the fact. Mr. B. however, afterwards states, that such an opinion has the sanction of Mr. Huskisson. We cannot, therefore, but class this among the many theories of trade and commerce, put forth by that Right Honourable Gentleman, which are rather the produce of the workings of a brilliant and creative imagination, than practical conclusions, drawn from actual facts, and real experience. The consequences arising from some of those systems, when carried into operation, are too well-known to need further remark.

We beg leave to quote a passage from the *Memoirs of Wool, page* 415, which we conceive

* See Mr. Bischoff's own Statement, which only makes it rather more than one third; but the year preceding, the weight of raw material imported was nearly equal to the weight of manufactured woollen goods exported.

as very applicable to the present state of this question.

"The author of this treatise might have done well to have told us, to what price he would have wool fall, and in what places we can consume more woollen goods abroad. No reason will appear for bringing home or encouraging the expense of these goods, if not in order totally to ruin the manufactory; unless we could be assured, that the falling of wool and manufactures to a low price would first ruin those other manufactures, and then, that ours would certainly advance in price again. And we should also have been told, how the *Landed Men* and *Poor* should subsist whilst the experiment was making; and how, in case the project should not take, we might retrieve the loss incurred by trying it."

In pages 111 and 112, (the last,) Mr. B. comes to a conclusion, that "*the measure intended by the landed interest—a tax upon the importation of foreign wool—can in no respect be advantageous to the owners and occupiers of sheep farms: the accumulation of their wool, and the reduced prices consequent on accumulation, have arisen partly from deterioration of English wool, partly from a change of taste in this and other countries, partly from the com-*

petition of foreign manufactures, enabled in time of peace to seek out every market both at home or abroad, and partly by the effect of the Corn Laws on the rate of wages in this country; all these combining to one point, have produced the effect felt by the wool grower, and lamented by the manufacturers; and the best, if not the only way, to encourage the manufacture, and improve the price of British wool, is to remove every tax and restriction which falls upon the woollen trade." We certainly cannot arrive at the conclusion, that a tax upon the importation of foreign wool, can in no respect be advantageous to the owners and occupiers of sheep farms; on the contrary, our opinion is directly the reverse, and we found it upon the following grounds; First, because the reduction in price has constantly been going on, since the tax on the importation of foreign wool was repealed, until, with reference to all descriptions of wools, it has become a diminution of from 30 to 70 per cent.: Secondly, that the accumulation has taken place, in consequence of the quantity of raw material introduced, which throws back the native wool upon the growers, and that accumulation, the buyers being of course aware of it, necessarily produces a low price: Thirdly, the alteration in taste, as it is termed, has rather been formed,

by the imposition of an apparently better article, of a finer quality it is true, but much less useful, than through any wish or desire of the buyers or wearers of woollen goods, with relation to the subject; and therefore the argument as to change of taste avails nothing, it being well known to be the wish of all classes to purchase really good articles, however in this respect they may be too frequently deceived: Lastly, if the removal of every tax or restriction will advance the British grown wool to its fair value, it is most strange, that not only we have not witnessed any great advantages from what has been done, but that those very evil effects, which Mr. B. contends would be produced by taxing foreign wool, have actually arisen from the opposite course being adopted, namely, the repeal of the tax.

SINCE the preceding pages were written, another pamphlet on the Wool Question* has made its appearance, which, though ushered into the

* "On the Wool Trade, with Considerations on the Effects of a Duty on Importation."

world without any author's name, is so like the recent offspring of Mr. Bischoff, that he may readily be imagined to be the parent of both. The burden is still the same, as well as the conclusions attempted to be deduced, and the arguments urged in their support. It may be, that the discrepancies in the evidence given before the Committees of Parliament by woollen manufacturers and others, were not thought sufficiently reconciled in the previous publication, and that thus it was thought necessary to make another attempt to bolster up that testimony, and to endeavour to amalgamate the contradictions in it, which are so obvious to the most careless observer. If so, the attempt has altogether failed, and has only served to render confusion worse confounded. Thus, for instance, it was stated in the evidence, and of course as a positive fact, that some descriptions of German wool might be purchased in this country at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per pound; but this fact being too glaring, as shewing, beyond contradiction, that the British wool had no possible chance in the home market against so cheap a raw material, it has been thought convenient, in the pamphlet before us, to set up some figures, for the purpose of proving that the expense of importing wool from Germany, exclusive of the first cost, is $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ per pound: now

what follows from this? Either the statement given in evidence must be utterly false, and in that case what dependence can be placed upon any part of the testimony so given? or the figures just alluded to must be a mere invention; it is evidently impossible that both statements can be true.

But what shall we say to the admission that is to be found in page 6 of this pamphlet, in which it is stated, that on the repeal of the sixpenny duty in 1824, "*The instantaneous and overwhelming quantity of foreign wool which was poured into the British markets, demonstrated clearly the preference which was given to it by the consumer; at the same time that it also established the fact, that the supply could be rendered equal to the utmost limits of demand.*" Can there be a stronger fact adduced to prove that if such importation is not restrained and much lessened by means of a duty, the British wool grower must be entirely driven out of his own, his only mart, the home market, and thus be utterly ruined. We cannot help thanking the Author, (whom we have already said we suppose to be Mr. Bischoff himself,) for such an admission; it proves incalculably more against the cause which he advocates than all the pages he has written in favour of it. What is it then that the woollen

manufacturers and their advocates call for? why nothing less than that foreign wool should be permanently substituted for British in the home trade. Is it not expressly admitted by their advocate, that the supply of foreign wool can "*be rendered equal to the utmost limits of demand*;" and what is the object of his pamphlet—of that which preceded it—of the evidence and statements of the merchants, manufacturers, and others, but that such supply of foreign wool may continue to be admitted without the payment of any duty? Why then, is it not clear from their own showing, that if such a practice is permitted by the Legislature, the supply may be rendered equal to the utmost limits of demand, and thus, that British wool, (clothing wool,) will become altogether and entirely unsaleable, a mere covering for the backs of sheep, without its being of any further the least utility.

We are of course well aware, that a distinction is attempted to be set up in this respect, between the long wool and the short wool, or the combing and the spinning wool; but what of this? All that it amounts to, is, that the grower of short wools will be immediately ruined, but that the ruin of the producer of long wools will be postponed till a sufficiency of the foreign raw material of that description can be

produced to oust him, too, out of the home market, and then *his* ruin will be equally certain.

An attempt is made in pages 22 and 23, to sustain for the twentieth time the egregious fallacy, that the increased consumption of mutton is sufficient to repay the sheep farmer, without reference to the price of wool. Those that argue in this way, only prove, that whatever they may know about the quantity of mutton eaten in London, they are totally ignorant as to the state of sheep farming in the country, it being a notorious fact, that, with the exception of those districts where there is a constant reliance upon the London markets for the sale of mutton, the sheep farmers in the far greater part of the country must depend upon the wool, not only for profit, but even for those adequate returns which can alone enable them to pay rent, charges, and expenses. It may be, and no doubt is, to a considerable extent true, that, in Germany, the carcass is sacrificed to the wool; but what does this prove? precisely this —that the foreigner will resort to every means to obtain the complete and entire command of the British markets, if he is allowed to do so by the British Legislature.

And what would the country obtain in exchange for the heavy loss sustained through

the ruin of the great majority of the wool growers? Where is the increase of foreign trade to come from, that could by any possibility compensate for it? Floundering attempts are made in this pamphlet, as in the other, to shew that new outlets may be opened for the foreign trade in British woollen manufactures; but they are, in reality, utterly delusive: no proof is given, nor can it be, of any increase of foreign trade that is worth making a sacrifice for: there has been plenty of time, since the repeal of the duty, to shew its operation in this respect, but no evidence can be produced to prove that any commensurate advantage has been derived from it. Several pages of this pamphlet are devoted to the purpose of shewing, what, perhaps, might have been, or what by possibility may be; but no fact, however, is stated to lead to any practical conclusion, that the foreign trade in woollen manufactures, either could, or can be increased, in any proportion to the deficit, which must inevitably be caused in the home trade, by driving British wools out of the home market. And what do we find in page 33? Companies, it had been stated, had been established in the Netherlands, and in Prussia, for the purpose of carrying on a foreign trade in the manufactured woollen articles of those countries, to the exclusion of those of British fabric; and the

Author does not scruple to say, that if "*these companies had once succeeded in establishing a preference for their goods in foreign markets, every one acquainted with human nature must know, that capital, to carry the trade on to an unlimited extent, would not be wanted, although it could only be got from this country, even whilst she was smarting from the ruin of so large a portion of her industrious population.*" Hear! Oh hear! the advocate of British merchants and woollen manufacturers, giving testimony in favour of their *patriotism!* Is it then for the benefit of those who would willingly contribute to maintain a trade in foreign manufactures, and coolly witness, at the same time, the ruin of a large proportion of their industrious fellow-countrymen, that the British Legislature are called upon to sacrifice British interests and British wealth? This acknowledgment will surely serve to open the eyes of some of those, who have not yet been initiated in the *secrets* of this new description of *patriotism.*

In page 38, the Author says, "*No room can remain for hesitating on the positive conviction, that a duty on the importation of a raw article used in manufactures, is necessarily ruinous to the foreign trade in them, and, consequently, inconsistent with the policy of a commercial state.*" It is necessary to notice

this remark, it being to a considerable extent a truism, but, at the same time, involving a gross fallacy with reference to wool. If the raw article is of foreign growth or produce, we undoubtedly admit the truth of the observation; but how stands the question with regard to wool? The wool, the raw material, is produced at home, in amply sufficient quantity: all that is needed, is, the introduction of a certain proportion of wools, of superior quality: why then, with respect to wool, the above quoted remark is not true, nor does it apply: but, add to this, that four-fifths of the articles manufactured from that raw material, are consumed at home, and it must be obvious to every one not biassed by interest or prejudice, that the remark just alluded to, becomes, as to wool, utterly fallacious. Were four-fifths of the manufactured articles, instead of being consumed at home, to be used in foreign trade, the remark, though it would not be in the same degree true, as if applied to raw materials of foreign produce, yet, it might be considered as founded in justice and policy: but when it is a notorious and indisputable fact, that the home trade consumes four-fifths, and the foreign trade only one-fifth, the case becomes directly reversed, and the home trade and home produce unquestionably ought to be the great objects of protection.

Similarly fallacious are the tables, evidently made up for the purpose, which are given in pages 39 and 40. It appeared, from an account, inserted in the Appendix, No. 10, Lords' Report, that during the years 1818, 1819, 1825, 1826, 1827, when the duty on the import of foreign wool was one penny, that the British woollen exports, compared with the five years, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, when the duty was sixpence, had actually decreased, (instead of increased,) 82,841 pieces, 5,117 yards; but this would not do, it would not answer the purpose of the Author; we are, therefore, told, that the account "should have been as follows;" and then one is manufactured in order to prove, or rather attempt to prove, a result directly the reverse, namely, that during the period of the sixpenny duty, as compared with the corresponding period of the penny duty, the *decrease* in British woollen exports was 1,170,681 pieces, 1,632,067 yards: most strange indeed, that the Lords' Committee should have been so deceived! But even taking the account upon the Author's own shewing, what does it amount to? Merely this, that the decrease in five years was not equal in value to the sum received for the duty on wool, at sixpence per pound, during that period. And what then does it prove? Why, undoubtedly, this; that

during the existence of the sixpenny duty, the balance was decidedly in favour of the country, and the great majority of its interests. Several pages of this pamphlet, are employed to establish the allegation, that the account in the Lords' Report is erroneous, and yet, after all the efforts thus laboriously made, the result is what we have just stated. Nothing, however, tends more clearly to shew the feeble, the puerile means, to which this advocate of the woollen manufacturers and others, finds himself compelled to have recourse, for want of more substantial grounds, than his pressing into the service the account of the import of foreign manufactured woollens, during the period of the existence of the sixpenny duty: and what is it? In 1823, £26,008.; in 1824, £71,583.; in 1825, £61,232.; and, in 1826, £41,865. To observe such a petty, ridiculous, chandler's shop account, as this, put forth, for the purpose of influencing, or even bearing upon a great and important question, involving an amount of many millions, reminds one of the old fable of the mountain and the mouse, and can surely serve no other purpose than to excite a laugh at the petty shifts to which the Author is reduced.

But what shall we say to this delicate sensitiveness on the part of the woollen manufacturers, who are dreadfully alarmed, as their

advocate would have us believe, at the importation of a few thousand pounds worth of foreign manufactured woollens; and who, at the same time, without the least compunction, call for the import of foreign raw wools, to the amount of millions, well knowing, as they must, that it cannot fail to produce the utter ruin of the British wool growers. This is, indeed, straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel; noticing the mote in the eye of another, and not minding the beam in that of him who makes the observation.

Our space has become so limited, that we have scarcely room even slightly to notice the other points adverted to in this pamphlet: several pages are occupied in labouring to prove, that in the event of a duty of 6*d.* per pound upon foreign wool imported being again imposed, no drawback on articles manufactured from foreign wool (as suggested on the part of those who advocate the reimposition of the duty), could be granted, which could be at all available or effective for its intended purposes. And with this view, the curtain is a little withdrawn, and we are let into one of the secrets of the trade; it being stated broadly, and without any qualification, that in such case, "*the upright tradesman who was restricted to shipping an article made really from foreign wool, would*

be undersold in all his markets by his less scrupulous neighbour, who reduced his prices by mixing the wool in his cloths, as is now universally done in a certain quality of goods, and passing them as being wholly made from foreign wool; thereby giving a premium on fraud and perjury." What an acknowledgment! How hard driven must be the author for an argument, when he could thus betray the secrets of his brethren and friends, and publish to the world the barefaced impositions that it seems are practised by some of them! It is a very wholesome maxim in law, that a man shall not be allowed to take advantage of his own wrong: but, according to the mode of argument thus adopted, the manufacturers of fraudulent articles are to be permitted, forsooth, to set up the frauds they commit, as a reason why advantages should be granted to them; and that, too, to the great and permanent injury of others, who are to suffer both ways, namely, from the frauds themselves, and from the effect of the advantages, unblushingly claimed to be derived through the medium of those very frauds; the drift of the argument of course being, that, at any rate, there ought to be no duty without a corresponding drawback upon the goods manufactured from the foreign raw material paying the tax, and that an efficient and available

drawback being impossible, why then, of course, that there ought to be no duty.

The proposition of a duty and drawback, betrays, it is said, (page 59), "*a heartless and selfish spirit.*" We should like to know, what spirit shews itself in contributing to the starvation of thousands of English labourers, merely for the sake of the profits of speculative traders? What does the British wool grower seek? Nothing more than a living profit, after paying rent, taxes, rates, charges, and expenses. What is the object of the British woollen manufacturer, and those connected with him in trade? To obtain foreign wool at so cheap a rate, that were the home grower to sell at such a price, he could neither pay rent, taxes, nor rates. And what, in that case, becomes of the public revenue, the maintenance of the poor, and the interest of the national debt?

J. Tilling, Printer, Chelsea.

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